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*Ontario Hydro-Electric J. A. Ross*  
*Inquiry Commission, 1922-1924*

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*Evidence*

*2813-3029*



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HYDRO ELECTRIC ENQUIRY COMMISSION

## CHIPPAWA DEVELOPMENT

NIAGARA FALLS, FEBRUARY 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH, 1923.

VOL. 2

W. C. Coe  
Official Reporter





HYDRO ELECTRIC INQUIRY COMMISSION.  
CHIPPAWA DEVELOPMENT.

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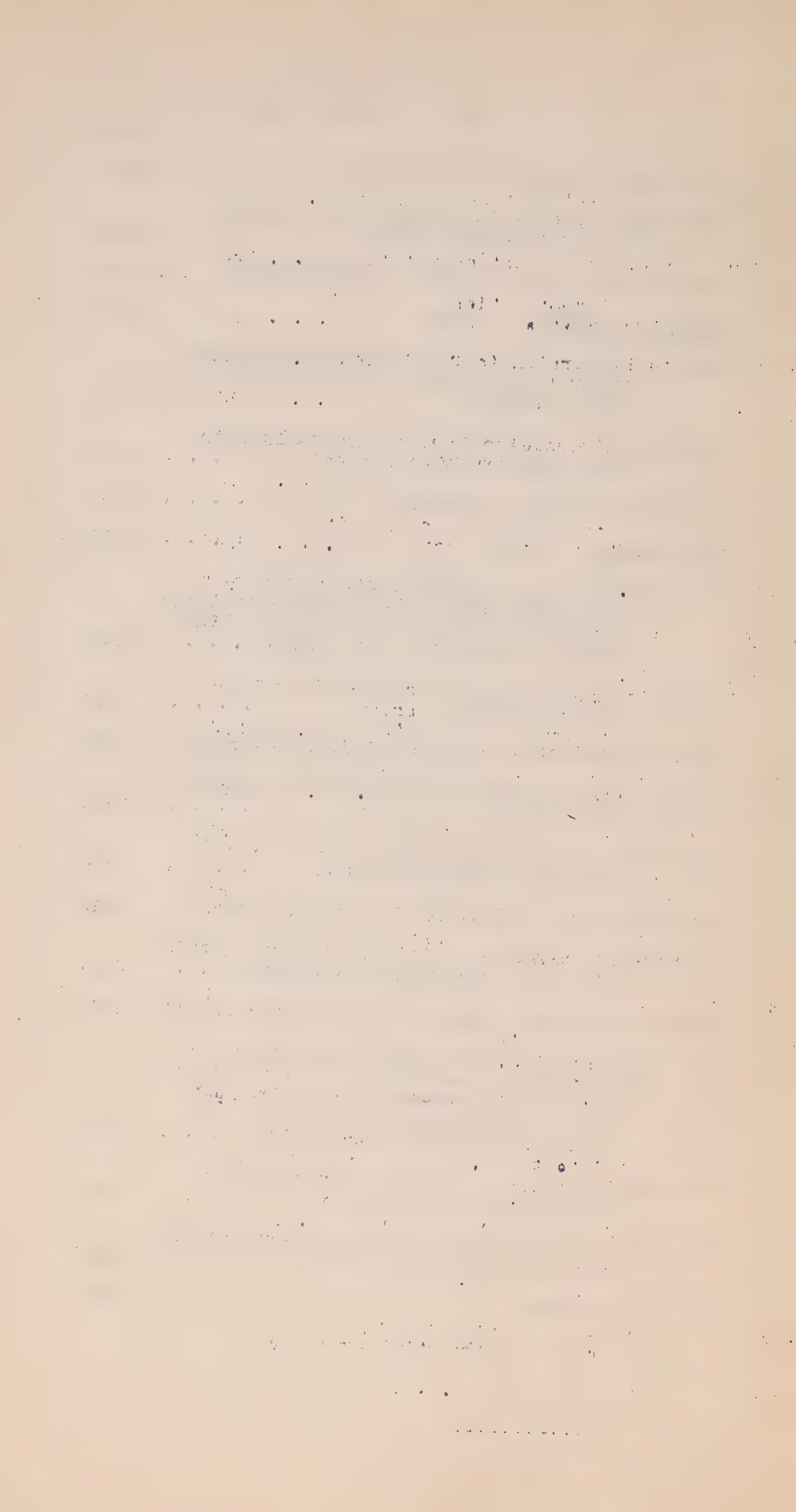




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HYDRO-ELECTRIC INQUIRY COMMISSION

CHIPPAWA DEVELOPMENT.

(Appearances : See Volume 1.)

AFTERNOON SESSION.

7th February, 1923.

THE CHAIRMAN : Mr. Gaby, I think you were about to say something when we adjourned.

MR. GABY : I just want to speak in a more or less general way. I refer to the two steam shovels that were referred to as being brought on the job towards the latter part of the work; those shovels were brought on the job on account of the trouble and delay in the schedule, as far as operation was concerned; they were decided upon after a conference with the consulting engineers of the Commission, and were recommended with a view to improving the schedule, as far as the work was concerned, and their purchase was approved by the Hydro Commission. I just want to correct the impression made with regard to that.

Mr. Acres will take up the details mentioned by Mr. McBride with respect to the air compressors, and the manner in which the men were paid for that work. As I recollect, the men employed on the various air compressors were paid at so much per month, for so many hours work, a stipulated number of hours, and I believe it developed into 13 hours.

THE CHAIRMAN : They were your own men who were working on the compressors?

MR. GABY : Yes, they were our own men. Mr. McBride has said that each shift worked 4 or 5 hours over time every day, and that is the point I was trying to correct, by pointing out that the men were paid at a monthly flat rate





for the hours they worked. There may have been times when they worked on an hourly basis, but the engineers and accountants were paid by the month.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know anything about that, Mr. McBride:

MR. McBRIDE: No, except that I was under the impression that for the first year they were working on an hourly basis. If Mr. Gaby says they were paid on a monthly basis, I accept it.

MR. GABY: I distinctly recollect that when the change was made to the 8 hour basis in 1920, it was actively discussed by the men.

THE CHAIRMAN: Were the men paid on a monthly basis in 1920?

MR. GABY: From recollection, the change was made in the summer of 1920.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Your pay sheets will show that?

MR. GABY: The pay sheets will show that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acres, have you anything to say about those matters?

MR. ACRES: There are one or two witnesses I can call who will throw some light on the situation. I might make one or two general remarks about Mr. McBride's evidence first.

With regard to the rubber suits, I have two witnesses here who can perhaps clear that point up.

THE CHAIRMAN: How many rubber suits did you give out?

MR. ACRES: A good many thousand, I don't remember the exact figures, but that was a big item in our work.

With regard to the waste; there were a good many ties used for one thing and another. I want to point out in that connection, with regard to the question of waste, that it involved the question of labour economies. A good





many people don't realize this fact, that our common labour on that job, as compared with common labour before the war, cost us about \$10 a day, that is based on the fact that common labour efficiency during the war period was only 50 per cent. of the efficiency of labour before the war. That is a fact that has been established by observation.

THE CHAIRMAN: What was the total amount paid out on the whole job for labour?

A-- I think somewhere in the neighborhood of \$23,000,000. Of course, as compared with the prevailing rate of common labour before the war, we were paying, during a good portion of the work, two and a half times the rate that common labour got before the war, and only got half the amount of work done; we were paying 5 times as much for our product.

Q-- What estimate was common labour based on?

A-- In 1916 we figured as high as 30 cents an hour, as a matter of fact, labour was running from 20 to 25 cents, and, as I say, on the basis of what we actually got out of our labour, we were paying \$10 a day during the period of construction for the same amount of work that before the war we would have paid about \$2 for.

With regard to the waste of this material, it would have cost us \$10 a day to salvage the ties, and it would be much cheaper to let them rot rather than pay \$10 a day for picking them up. That is a statement which applies more or less to a good many conditions of the work. It is purely a question of labour economics. Under pre-war conditions we could have picked up those ties and sold them for fire wood, and it would have paid us to do it, but under prevailing conditions during the course of construction it would have cost too much to prepare that material for the market.

Regarding the sand that Mr. McBride mentioned, it was not a matter of choice, but it was a case of having to have





that sand, and we had to make the contract as we did because we only wanted a limited quantity, and beyond that quantity we didn't have the plant or the men, to develop the pit, therefore we had to leave it to somebody else. Sand is a very changeable class of product, and we bought sand from that pit only until we could get real good sand from Lake Ontario.

In the matter of following up the issues from stores, we can give you evidence direct with regard to that from the men who handled the stores.

The matter of tools disappearing is a complaint that is more or less epidemic on all construction work.

Q-- What have you to say, Mr. Acres, about the statement that there was not a sufficient check made of the stores taken out, to see that they went direct to the job?

A-- We will give direct evidence as to that. I simply remark in regard to the matter of small tools disappearing, that I don't know whether conditions were worse on our job than on other jobs during the war, but no tools were safe anywhere except in the stores, under lock and key. We resorted to all sorts of expedients to guard the tools, but when somebody's back was turned locks would be picked, and somebody would help themselves. It is something we did our best to prevent, but it was owing to the unavoidable conditions, which we could not wholly eliminate.

With regard to the matter of building large camps, I think possibly it is hardly necessary to enlarge on that, because of the difficulty we had in procuring labour it necessitated keeping a large force on the job, and that was what dictated that policy, there was no other alternative.

Q-- The complaint made is that you built large houses so late in the course of the work.

A-- We did not get a free influx of labour on that job until the beginning of 1921; until that time we hadn't really begi-





to get all the labour we needed.

Q-- When were these houses put up?

A-- They were put up, beginning in 1917.

Q-- But Mr. McBride refers to the houses built later on?

A-- I don't think any of those houses were built after the spring of 1921; previous to the influx of our largest volume of labour.

Q-- They would be used for not more than a year?

A-- Some were not used that long, but simply to provide accommodation because there was no other accommodation for the men.

Q-- Building for such a short period, couldn't you have built cheaper houses? A-- No, they were built a good deal cheaper <sup>than</sup> the camps constructed previous to that.

I think that is all, as far as Mr. McBride's remarks are concerned; it might be well now for you to get some direct evidence in the matter of issues from stores.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

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W. McALEESE:

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mc<sup>A</sup>Leese, what have you to say with regard to the issues from stores?

A-- I would just like to hear Mr. McBride's statement again, as to what he said, what his supposition was.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. McBride said that the stores were let out on an order issued by the foreman, but there was no precaution taken to see that they reached the work.

A-- I wish to speak about the rubber boots, and oil clothing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps Mr. McBride might tell us again what he said about that.

MR. McBRIDE: I said, Mr. Chairman, that stores,





tools, etc., were given out on an order signed by the foreman, a requisition on the store house, and, in my opinion, I thought possibly a method could have been worked out which would have been an improvement on the system, in order to follow up and see that the stores were delivered at the place for which they were requisitioned, and to see that they were used for the purpose for which they were requisitioned.

MR. McALEESE: That did not come directly under my supervision, I can't speak as to the stores business, but I will speak with regard to the oiled clothing and rubber boots.

As Mr. McBride said, the oilskin clothing and rubber boots were given out on a requisition signed by an authorized foreman, and they were charged up to them, and remained charged until they were returned; if they were only partially worn out when they were brought back they were put to one side, re-sorted and re-issued again. Oilcloth clothing that was practically useless during rainy weather, would be turned over to repair men working on the shovels, and to men in the machine shops, who had oily, greasy work to do. If the oiled clothing was unfit for further use, it was destroyed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. McBride said that sometimes the oiled clothing was given out in the morning and turned in again at night, and was unfit for further use.

A-- I can't say as to that because I was not out on the works. I did not see any cases of that kind. There is a possibility that a man would be engaged at a certain class of work, and might fall and tear his clothing.

Q-- Is it customary to supply each man with a rubber suit?

A-- That was the idea.

Q-- I don't mean on this job, but on works generally.

A-- In a great many classes of work, I believe there is, but I can't answer you on that at all.

Q-- Do you know whether some of the men got rubber suits a





number of times?      A-- Oh, yes, I know that men got suits a number of times.

Q-- Before they got one suit would they have to turn in the other?      A-- Turn in the remains, what was left of the other.

Q-- Would they sometimes dispose of those suits?

A-- I don't see how they could.

Q-- You don't know of any cases?      A-- I don't know of any cases.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS:      Were those suits marked?

A-- No; each man was charged up under his badge number with whatever he got.

Q-- Were the suits marked so they could be identified as to number?      A-- For quite awhile we stencilled them, with these initials, "H.E.P.C."

THE CHAIRMAN:      Would you put the man's number on the suit when he got it?      A-- No, sir, we didn't know how long he would keep it. About rubber boots, I might say, I took it up with the manufacturers in Toronto, and had all the rubber boots vulcanized with a red tab on the front, "H.E.P.C." The manufacturers put our private mark on, which would enable us to see if we were getting sufficient service out of the boots, and if they fell down we could go to the manufacturer and tell them that this      pair of boots had been used for so many days, or weeks, and had fallen down, and we were able to get at some of the trouble.

Q-- Mr. McBride says they were used as a substitute for other suits?      A-- The trousers were.

Q-- And that the suits were worn out, not from the wet weather at all?

A-- I can't say as to that. As I say, we did give these suits, coats and pants cut that would come back and were not fit to keep a man dry, we did turn those over to the different repair men in the machine shop to afford them protection for





their clothes, there were so many oily, greasy places where the men had to work.

Q-- What percentage of the suits turned in were sent out again? A-- The suits and boots were kept in service just as long as they were fit for use, we sometimes found that the left boot would go, and we issued two right boots to the labourers for their work. That meant that we had a pair of boots that were not fit to work in ditch work, or in the water and that man would complain to the foreman, and would get another requisition that would entitle him to another pair of boots, he would take in the old boots which were charged against his number, and get a new issue.

Q-- As a general rule, when a man would take out one of those suits, he was supposed to keep it until it was worn out?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- So it was not the common practice at all to turn them in on the same day as issued? A-- No, I would say that was a far fetched statement.

Q-- How long would the average use be? A-- Different classes of work would make an average of from one and two to five months. Speaking from memory, some fellows I would imagine would have them for a year. It depended on the class of work the man was on.

MR. ACRES: A carpenter might be able to use one of those suits for five months, and the pit man under the shovel would wear out a suit in three weeks. It would depend on the class of service.

THE CHAIRMAN: What was the cost of a suit?

MR. HONSBERGER: \$10 complete.

THE CHAIRMAN: What did you spend on them altogether?

MR. HONSBERGER: I can't tell you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything further about Mr. McBride's statement that you wish to refer to?

MR. McALEESE: Yes, there were two or three little



things I want to clear up. If a man left the company, or was discharged, and he had a pair of rubber boots, or oilclothing charged to him, of which a record was kept in the stores under his number, he had to come to the storehouse for a clearance. If he had rubber boots, regardless of their condition, or oilclothing, regardless of the condition, he had to turn them in before he received a clearance slip.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anything further?

MR. GIBBY: I think Mr. McAlleese has stated that when a man was discharged he had to get a release from the storehouse, for any oilclothing he had, and he had to present that clearance to the pay master before he could get his pay; otherwise there would be a deduction.

THE CHAIRMAN: What about the rubber boots?

MR. McALLEESE: The same thing applies. Anything charged against that man under his badge number had to be returned before he received a clearance and got his pay.

Q-- If he couldn't produce them, he was charged up with them? A-- He was charged up with the price of the suit of clothing, and charged up with the rubber boots, if he didn't return them.

MR. ACRES: That was the price now, independent of the condition, if he couldn't produce the suit of oil-clothing, or the pair of boots, he was charged up with the price now of the issue. Furthermore, that principle applied to everything on the work, his board had to be paid up to the last cent before he got anything from the paymaster.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: Did that apply to tools?

MR. ACRES: It applied in the same way to tools. The workman had to comply with those rules before he could go to the paymaster and draw a cent.

It might be well to point out that there were no rubber suits issued, they were just oilcloth clothing; the





only rubber goods were the boots.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: The clothing issued was what is generally called 'slickers' ?

MR. MCALPHESE: Yes. I should like to give some information as to the procedure of issuing articles from the stores, and the method of following them up. Regarding material and stores issued from the Stores Department, all this material outgoing had to have a requisition signed by an authorized foreman, and there was a list of such foremen which was revised from time to time, and was kept in the storehouse at the various issuing counters. That list of authorized foremen came from the works engineer, and no employee of the Stores Department was allowed to take it on himself to give stuff out unless he had the foreman's duly authorized requisition, which was authorized by the work's foreman. That entitled the man to get the stuff. There were several issuing counters, and several storehouses from which materials were issued; if a foreman sent a man down there for a certain class of stores, the stores were issued to that man, and his badge number taken as a receipt by the stores. In the early stages of the work we had more or less trouble, for example, where a foreman would be up along the canal somewhere and would order something and probably the man who was sent for it could not carry it, it had to be sent by truck, and a list of the stuff put on that truck was given to the man, according to the duplicate of his requisition, and a duplicate given to the man who took the stuff from the door, who signed for it, and he in turn was to get a receipt from the man to whom he turned it over. That eliminated any kick from that foreman who might claim he did not get what he ordered.

THE CHAIRMAN: And what was the procedure when the





man carried the goods?

A-- We took his receipt.

Q-- How did you know it got to the job?

A-- The man who was sent was sent by an authorized foreman for the material.

Q-- What check had you to show that the goods were delivered to the foreman?

A-- In case the foreman didn't receive the goods he had ordered on the requisition, we soon heard about it.

COMMISSIONER R.A.ROSS: Were these requisitions sent by in the foreman signed by him, or was it a verbal requisition?

A-- There were verbal requisitions from superintendents on the job who would telephone to the Stores Department for them to send out a certain class of material required at a certain part of the work.

Q-- You are citing the case of a foreman at some distance from the centre sending a man in for materials? A--Yes, sir.

Q-- Did he send a written requisition for it? A--Yes, sir.

Q-- He always did? A-- Oh, yes, that is what I was speaking of.

MR. GABY: In other words, we issued no stores unless on the foreman's requisition, on a special form we had.

COMMISSIONER R.A.ROSS: You had a voucher for everything that went out?

MR. McALEESE: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: If it didn't get to the job, you say the foreman would make trouble about it?

A-- He certainly did, that is why I had the special delivery form which we got out to take care of that, which made a man taking stuff from the door sign before he left with his load; he would probably take out three or four different lots of material for distribution along the line, and the information on the foreman's order indicated where it was to be delivered, and showed everything that was in the box or the parcel,



everything was enumerated on the requisition, and it was signed by the truck driver who took the goods from the door, and he in turn got a signature from the man he delivered it to, and in that way we could trace it.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: What became of the receipt?

A-- That was retained in the tool room, by the truck driver.

Q-- It was not returned to the Stores Department?

A-- No, sir.

Q-- All of the materials, and plant, you received passed through the stores? A-- Practically all, sir.

MR. GABY: Excepting plant only?

MR. McALEESE: There are a few other exceptions.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Where was the record of plant kept?

MR. GABY: By the plant engineer, and also the accounting department.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: The plant engineer had a department of his own?

MR. GABY: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: All of the materials for the work, timber, cement, tools, and everything of that kind passed through the stores?

MR. GABY: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: What did you include in your plant account?

MR. GABY: Locomotives, and all steam shovels, and things of that kind, other than small tools.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: I do not understand why you didn't have the receipts for the delivery of stores signed by the foreman and returned to the stores department, as evidence that they were actually received.

MR. McALEESE: As I say, if they weren't received as ordered, there was a holler.





COMMISSIONER HANEY: That is not a record; they may not have got it.

A-- We had the badge number of the man who took it.

Qp- That is no indication of delivery.

A-- I am speaking of the receipt given by the man who made the requisition.

Q-- But you had no record to show that the man had received the goods, there were no receipts, as I understand, that were returned to the stores as evidence that he had received the goods.

MR. GABY: Those goods went out on the truck, and we had the receipt given by the truck driver.

MR. MOALEESE: These receipts were all fyled.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Where were they fyled?

A-- In the tool room.

Q-- Where was that? A-- Right next to the store house.

Q-- Who was in charge of that department?

A-- The man in the tool room.

Q-- Was he responsible to the stores department?

A-- Any more than if there was any trouble, we went back to him, and he in turn would get that receipt for us to verify the delivery of the shipment.

MR. ACRES: I may say that the bulk of the machiner went out to the work in consignments, and we got the receipts from the foremen.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Where were those receipts kept?

MR. ACRES: They were kept in the field office.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: I imagine they <sup>should</sup> come back to the stores department.

MR. ACRES: They came back to the point where they were available for the stores department; they were kept carefully on fyle.





MR. GABY : There were two forms of receipt; first the storehouse got a receipt of delivery to another department, which is the service department, being nominally the man on the job, and the man on the job protected the service department by giving a receipt for the delivery of the material. If there was any complaint, the service department held this receipt as their acknowledgment of the delivery of the goods, which were turned over by them to the stores department.

MR. ACRES : In the matter of material supplied to messengers; there was a very small amount of that, and the receipt was taken from the man the foreman sent, as the foreman's deputy; the foreman really signed for those goods through his deputy.

COMMISSIONER HANEY : Everything except the bulky plant passed through the stores ?

MR. ACRES : Yes.

COMMISSIONER HANEY : Steel rails passed through the stores, and ties ?

MR. GABY : Rails, and everything connected therewith, passed through the storehouse, and were under the charge of the stores department, as well as reinforced steel, sand, crushed stone, and everything that may have been delivered to different parts of the job to eliminate the expense, for instance, a car of timber might be delivered to the site where it was to be used.

COMMISSIONER HANEY : But a report was made of the delivery to the stores ?

MR. GABY : A report was made and checked by the stores.

THE CHAIRMAN : Do you know of any cases where loads delivered were found to be short ?

MR. GABY : We had little shortages, yes, and



overages.

THE CHAIRMAN: What did you do about shortages?

MR. GABY: In cases where there was an apparent shortage, we had a report on it. We would take it up with the companies from whom the materials were obtained.

MR. McALEESE: Yes, and would go into it with the Railway Company in order to verify our figures.

MR. GABY: That was done through the purchasing department.

THE CHAIRMAN: When your man started out with a load of material what, if any, check was there as to some of that material that might be dropped off by him along the road, for instance, lumber?

MR. GABY: The delivery check, I should say, he would have to deliver it to the foreman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would the delivery check be sufficient to show there was more or less on the load?

MR. GABY: If they requisitioned a certain number of thousand feet of lumber, and the storehouse delivered that number of thousand feet of material through the service department, they could trace the receipt which would be signed by the foreman, or whoever was in charge of the work.

There were other materials that were delivered directly to the job.

THE CHAIRMAN: If a man were to drop off a few boards, it would be very difficult to check that up.

MR. McALEESE: I imagine, if that was the case, the man on the truck would pick it up, or if another truck came along that driver would pick it up, or it might be left on the side of the road.

MR. ACRES: There had to be a certain amount of latitude there; with a load of small timber 2 x 10, you couldn't count the boards and make sure that





every board that was taken from the stores was delivered to the point where it was to be used; if the pieces were 12 x 12 you could get an absolute check of it. If it was not feasible to get an absolute check, we got an approximate check; it would leave the stores as a load of lumber, and would get to the foreman as a load of lumber, and the contents of that load could not be checked unless you didn't trust the truck driver and placed a watchman along the road to see that he didn't drop anything off.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, or somebody discovered him doing something wrong.

MR. ACRES: Of course, one of the things that helped to remedy that hazard was that practically all the main transportation routes were on our own property, and if material was dropped off through inadvertence, it would still be on our property, and some effective use would be made of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. McAleese, do you know of any instance where a load of coal disappeared? A-- No, sir.

Q-- You and Mr. Scriven never investigated anything of that kind? A-- No, sir.

Q-- Have you a man named Brydges working for you?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Had you a man named Long working for you?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Why did you discharge him? A--Why, Mr. Long was laid off in 1921 when the general layoff came, due to the fact that we had to cut our staff. Why I picked on Mr. Long was, he had come to me from Beamsville, or Grimsby, in that district, where he told me a number of times he had had a couple of fruit farms, and had sold them, and come down to our work, and I felt that he was a man that would not be pilt on the town if he lost his job out there; I expected he didn't have any ties, that is, a big family, or anything like that.





Q-- You dropped him owing to no special charge?

A-- No charge whatever.

Q-- It was because you thought he could take care of himself better than others?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Has this man Brydges any special qualification for the job?

A-- Not any more than I understood he had quite a family, and he was kept on.

Q-- When was he engaged?

A-- I can't say offhand, the time checks would show us, Mr. Chairman.

Q-- Is there anything further?

A-- No, only I wish to point out that when the layoff came I just used my own judgment, and I thought he would be thrown on the town.

Q-- That would be a very proper way to decide?

A-- That is what governed me in that point, I found both of them capable men, I have nothing whatever to say against Mr. Long, if I had a job for him to-morrow I would give him that job; I think he is a very trustworthy man.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you any questions, Mr. McBride?

MR. McBRIDE: No.

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MR. ACRES: I think we had better have Mr. Taylor.

DUNCAN TAYLOR.

MR. ACRES: Mr. Taylor was the general foreman on the canal diversion.

THE CHAIRMAN: What part of the canal?

MR. ACRES: The part of the canal having particular charge of the rock and earth excavation; he started as a shovel foreman on No. 1 shovel, and worked up to the position of general foreman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Taylor, would you consider that the method of using oilskins, and rubber boots, on this work, was what Mr. McBride called an unique innovation on con-



struction work?

A-- No.

Q-- Can you state instances where the same thing has been done?

A-- In general work where men have been working where there is water, as long as I have been associated with construction work, it has been the rule to issue rubber boots.

Q-- They say that they used this clothing in dry weather as well as wet.

A-- I would say they didn't; the men working at the bottom of the canal never had dry weather to work in; I do not think many men in the service wore oilclothing in fine weather.

MR. ACRES: Mr. Taylor is referring to the conditions I mentioned, Mr. Gregory, where sometimes rubber clothes did not last more than three weeks, where men were working in the bottom of the canal, and travelling over broken rock. I think Mr. Ross has some recollection of what the bottom of the canal was like.

COMMISSIONER R.A.ROSS: Why do you call them 'rubber clothes', they were only slickers?

MR. ACRES: What was the procedure in the matter of issuing rubber boots and oilskin clothing to the workmen on the job? There were two policies; there was a change in the policy in the summer of 1921, start at the beginning, the way it used to be, and describe the change, and why we made the change.

A-- Up until the summer of 1921, every person, practically, was issued with oilclothing and rubber boots for wet weather; I think sometime during the summer of 1921, I just forget what month, they stopped <sup>giving</sup> oilclothing to trackmen, and such like, and in special cases where they had to go into the water they were issued with rubber boots, but I think, if I remember right, that they always procured both oilclothing and rubber boots, which was charged up to them outright,





as it were.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: If the man returned rubber boots, he got credit?

A-- Rubber boots were not issued to men who were working where it was dry, but men who were working where it was continually wet were always issued with oilclothing and rubber boots.

MR. ACRES: I may say, Mr. Gregory, that the reason for that change was a very real one, although it might not be very tangible; along in 1921 matters got in such a way that we could not keep men on the job at all if they had to buy their own clothes; up to that time the labour market was such that if a man thought he was going to be caught in a rainstorm he would walk off the job if he hadn't rubber clothes. In the morning, when the men came to the shovel at seven o'clock, if there was a little drizzle of rain the men would leave and there wouldn't be any pitmen under the shovel, they might return later, and might not. The change was made as a matter of precaution. On that job we had to observe a certain amount of leniency in the matter of issuing rubber boots and oilclothing. I can assure you it was always a thorn in our flesh, and we watched conditions, and the labour barometer carefully, until we struck the psychological moment and then we shut down on it; it was not carelessness, but a matter -- such as I mentioned yesterday.

COMMISSIONER J.A. ROSS: A well considered mistake.

MR. ACRES: We took advantage of the conditions, and remedied it.

THE CHAIRMAN: When the time came, you remedied it.

MR. ACRES: We did.

Q-- In the matter of the receipt for material, what was the responsibility of the foreman in the matter of his own





requisitions? A-- Well, we kept whatever check we could on the foreman, if he got so many shovels, and picks, for so many men, he naturally had to account for them.

THE CHAIRMAN: He didn't always do that?

A-- Yes, pretty much.

Q-- You were very fortunate. A-- They would wear out from time to time and have to be renewed.

MR. ACRES: The point is, we took the trouble and care to make a check.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you know how many picks and shovel you gave out, and how many you had when the job was over?

MR. ACRES: We could find out; I don't know about that. A shovel has rather a depreciable value.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have seen some shovels used with great care.

MR. ACRES: There was 50 per cent. conservation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Taylor, what did you have to do with 'labour,' general supervision?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you have any difficulty getting 100 per cent. efficiency out of the men? A-- Ordinary pick and shovel labour, I would say was very poor.

Q-- What was the trouble? A-- Evidently there was a class of men at that work that had not been accustomed to it; not like the old construction men we used to get before the war, they didn't seem to be in the country.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Some difficulty in speaking the language and instructing them in your own language through the foreman, as to the nature of the work they had to do?

A-- No, not so much.

Q-- Did you speak to them with a club?

COMMISSIONER H.A. ROSS: There is a kind of labourers' language usually on such jobs as this, that they all under-



stand.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you have any difficulty in making them understand? A-- No, not very much.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: What I want to make clear is, most of the foremen wouldn't speak the language of the Pollocks, for instance, and might have difficulty in directing them.

A-- There would be a certain amount of difficulty.

Q-- How would the foreman give them orders? Was there any common language they understood? On the West Coast they have the Chinook language; was there any common language between you and the Pollocks, which was understood by the Pollocks?

THE CHAIRMAN: Didn't they understand you?

A-- Usually, yes.

MR. ACRES: We had a number of foreign foremen who could speak English, and also the Pollock language.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: You couldn't tell what the interpreter said to the men?

MR. ACRES: No, but could see what the men did.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Taylor, the tool checkers were under your supervision? A-- Yes.

Q-- Tell us what the tool checkers did?

A-- We had tool checkers, on different sections of the canal work.

Q-- How would they check them? A-- They went to the gangs and checked up the tools they had, from time to time.

Q-- They would get the number of tools they had?

A-- Yes, and would check up the shovels, and other tools that were worn out, and issue them with new ones.

Q-- Did you have much difficulty with respect to losing tools on the job?

A-- No, only small tools like wrenches, and tools like that.





MR. GABY: These small tools were checked from time to time? A-- They were continuously checked.

Q-- And these shovels that needed repairs were sent to the storehouse, repaired, and sent back to the job, as requisitioned? A-- Yes, anything that could be repaired was sent back to the storehouse.

Q-- In other words, there was a salvage department carried on by the storehouse for salvaging tools, and keeping up repairs? A-- Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you keep track of the loaded cars? A-- No, I didn't personally, but a check was kept of the number of cars loaded from each shovel.

Q-- Was there a check kept of the quantity each car contained? A-- No, they were 20-yard cars.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: You made an estimate upon that measurement for the month? A-- Yes.

Q-- The average amount.

MR. ACRES: I can explain that in detail. Our reports of daily production were completed on the basis of the average yardage per car, varying from 11 to 13 yards per car of rock, and 15 to 18 per bank measurement for cars loaded with earth, and the number of cars were carefully counted each day, and checked, and the number of yards of earth and rock were multiplied by the consonants of the daily production report, and at the end of each month the engineers made a complete estimating survey, just exactly the same as a resident engineer would do under any contract to secure a monthly progress estimate. They got out the total yards moved for the month, of earth and rock by taking the number of cars moved that month, and arrived at the respective totals. A check was kept from month to month based on the yardage per car. We always knew within less than 5 per cent. of any consonant we were using for



our daily reports, and this was checked with the engineer's measurement survey.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you keep as careful a record of the quantity as would be kept by a man who had contracted to do the excavating at so much per yard?

MR. ACRES: Yes, we did, our engineering and construction departments were organized almost exactly as if this was on contract work, that is the only way we could keep an actual check on the progress, and know where we were from month to month; the magnitude of the job was so great it was not possible by observation to know where you stood at all, so we had our engineering department organized in the way as if it was construction work under an actual contract.

COMMISSIONER R.A. ROSS: Did you have any disputes between your departments?

MR. ACRES: We had them all the time, that was one of my jobs to settle differences between the construction and engineering departments; you never get interest in the work where you don't get controversy.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Taylor, did Mr. Scriven ever say anything to you as to whether the cars were loaded too lightly or too heavily?

A-- Oh, yes, quite frequently.

Q-- What about that? A-- We always tried to keep the cars loaded as heavily as possible, and quite frequently Mr. Scriven would get after us for light loading.

MR. ACRES: From time to time we found the shovels loading the cars too light, for instance, a man would get a little ambitious at night to bring up his car record and might load the cars light, but he was soon checked up. That had no effect upon our measurement, because our monthly survey checks covered all the dis-





crepancy, and the average monthly output covered shortages in an occasional car. There was very little of that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Taylor, what did you do before you were employed on the canal?

A-- For four years before I started on the canal I was in France, before that I was contracting for three or four years on a small scale myself.

Q-- Were you excavating on a small scale?

A-- Excavation, and so forth, and concrete.

Q-- In what capacity did you go on the canal at first?

A-- I went on the canal as foreman.

Q-- Right from the start?

A-- Yes, sir. I might also say I have worked for contractors in various places for the last twenty years, I suppose.

Q-- You spoke about the inefficiency of the foreign labour; was there any difficulty with any other kind of labour on the work? A-- Well, not so much, no; the mechanics were up to the standard, I should say.

Q-- They were satisfactory.

MR. ACRES: There was some interesting information got out two years by the Building Association in Toronto, on the efficiency of skilled labour. I think it would be very interesting if you got that report.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does it refer especially to the Chippawa Canal?

MR. ACRES: It refers to the labour, a certain class of building trade, where the production was susceptible to more or less inaccurate measurement, and they got out some rather interesting statistics.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you a copy of them?

MR. ACRES: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you can get a copy and send



it to us.

MR. ACRES: Yes, I think I can get the information for you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Taylor, did you hear what was said yesterday about drunkenness on the canal? A-- I did.

Q-- Did you have any difficulty owing to liquor getting in there? A-- The men were unsteady, quite often we would have a camp full of men and very few on the work.

Q-- Was it owing to this? A-- I can't say it was, I suppose it was.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Generally on pay day, or after pay day? A-- Generally after payday.

Q-- How long, two or three days? A-- Sometimes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think there is anything more, Mr. Taylor.

MR. ACRES: I don't know whether Mr. Taylor is sufficiently familiar with it or not, if he is he might describe to the Commission the function of our camp bosses, how they kept track of the men who were not working.

A-- I know very little about the camps, but each camp had a camp boss whose duty it was to try to keep the men as much as possible out on the work, we had policemen -- who had the powers of policemen. About all I had to do with that, I used to call them up and try to get the men out when we found we were short; sometimes they would lay in in bad weather, would stay in the camps, and sometimes I suppose from other causes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have heard something about chaplins you had on this job.

MR. GLBY: Yes, we had them; the Frontier College had camps here all the time.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Were they on your payroll?





MR. ACRES:           Some of the teachers were on the payroll.

MR. GABY:            They worked during the day, and taught at night.

MR. ACRES:           We had Frontier men working as mechanics, who tried to keep the peace, and taught the adults as well as the children; they did pretty good work too.

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THE CHAIRMAN:        Is Mr. Donnelly here?

(No response).

THE CHAIRMAN:        Is Mr. Embury here?

IRVINE EMBURY.

THE CHAIRMAN:        Do you live in Niagara Falls?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- What is your occupation?           A-- Carpenter.

Q-- Have you lived here for some time?

A-- For six years.

Q-- Did you work on the Queenston Heights and Chippawa canal?

A-- I did.

Q-- When did you begin work there?

A-- I can't tell you exactly what year it was I worked there, but I worked about two years on the canal.

Q-- What did you do on the canal?

A-- I worked most of the time on the trestle works.

Q-- As a carpenter?                   A-- Yes.

Q-- Did you have any experience there as to the management, as to the methods followed in the construction, and can you give an opinion as to the efficiency of the methods that were followed?

A-- None, only I went ahead

and done my work.

Q-- You did your work?               A-- I did my work.



Q-- Sometimes were you not given work to do when you were on the job?      A-- Sometimes we had no material to work with.

Q-- Perhaps you had better tell us of your experience in that respect.      You were largely engaged on the trestle work?      A-- Yes.

Q-- Did you always have plenty of posts there, and plenty of other material to put together?      A-- No, there were lots of times we were out of material.

Q-- For days at a time?      A-- Yes, there was one time I was three days out of material.

Q-- How many men would be working along with you?

A-- About 18 or 20 in the gang I was in.

Q-- Would the gang practically be idle for that length of time?      A-- They would hunt up a little work to do, but it didn't amount to much.

Q-- Would the trouble be largely that the labourers had nothing on hand to work with?      A-- The labourers had nothing on hand to work with.      At that time we had no boss.

Q-- Perhaps you worked so well you didn't need a boss?

A-- I can't say.

Q-- You mean you had no foreman?      A-- We had no foreman.

Q-- When was that?      A-- I can't keep track of when it was, but it was when we were working up on the trestles at Montrose, when the foreman quit.

Q-- Why did the foreman quit?      A-- As near as I could find out he was accused of not getting out to work in time.

Q-- So he quit?      A-- Yes.

Q-- And left you there without a foreman?

A-- He didn't get up that morning in time.

Q-- He was late one morning?      A-- Yes, the whole





gang was late.

Q-- How was it the whole gang was late?

A-- The work train didn't get us up there in time.

Q-- What happened after the foreman quit?

A-- We went right ahead and went on making sills, as if he was there.

Q-- How long did you keep on working without a foreman?

A-- I think we were there about two or three weeks without a foreman.

Q-- What did you do the first day after the foreman left, did you act as foreman, or any of you?      A-- No, I wouldn't act as foreman.

Q-- Did no one come around to see what you were doing?

A-- Mr. McRae was around about twice a day.

Q-- Did Mr. McRae find out that you had no foreman there?

A-- It was between him and the foreman, it was him jumped on the foreman.

Q-- He fired the foreman?      A-- He didn't fire him, he quit.

Q-- For things McRae had said to him?      A-- Yes.

Q-- When McRae come back to you after the foreman quit?

A-- It was in the morning he quit, and McRae was back in the afternoon.

Q-- What were you doing during the morning?

A-- We were working on the trestles, we kept on working as long as we had material.

Q-- What did you do when you ran out of material?

A-- We ran out of material shortly after he left.

Q-- In the morning?      A-- No, in a few days after he left we ran short.

Q-- What material did you run short of?

A-- We ran short of posts and lumber, and were short of nails.



Q-- You were short of posts, lumber and nails -- that is quite a shortage. What did you do? A-- We went across on the other side, to the road trestle, and put up stringers.

Q-- You found some stringers there? A-- Yes, there were a few, and as fast as the teams could draw them we put them up.

Q-- Did the teams draw them as fast as you could put them up? A-- No, Mr. McRae came along and sent us back.

Q-- To where you came from? A-- Yes.

Q-- Why? A-- He said we were too close to the road.

Q-- What difference did that make? A-- The teams couldn't keep us busy.

Q-- Why couldn't they keep you as busy while you were by the road as when you were away from it? A-- I don't know why.

Q-- Could you be seen better on the road than if you were farther back? A-- Yes.

Q-- Did that have anything to do with it? A-- I don't know.

Q-- Did Mr. McRae say you had better get back some place?

A-- He said we were to go back there, this was too open.

Q-- What did you do when you got back?

A-- In fact, we couldn't do much of anything, we only had two posts and one plank to work with.

Q-- For 18 men -- that wouldn't go around. Did you have any nails? A-- There was a few of them, but not much good.

Q-- There was not much use in having posts and planks if you had no nails to put them up with. How long did that obtain? A-- We stayed until three o'clock in the afternoon and went back and put up stringers.

Q-- How long did it take to put up the rest of the string-





ers?           A-- We finished that night.

Q-- What happened next morning?

A-- We went back and waited until Mr. McRae came.

Q-- Did Mr. McRae come along?           A-- Yes, he asked if there was no lumber there, and we told him there was nothing.

Q-- What happened then?           A-- He went off after some; he said he would send it right up.

Q-- Did he?           A-- There was 300 or 400 feet of lumber came, but no posts.

Q-- What about the posts?           A-- They didn't come until the next day.

Q-- Did you have to wait in the meantime?           A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- You couldn't use the lumber unless the posts were there?

A-- No.

Q-- Did he send the posts along the next day?

A-- A carload of posts came the next day.

Q-- How long would that keep you going?           A-- I can't say exactly how long we were kept in material after that, whilst we had <sup>a</sup>foreman.

Q-- Did he say anything to you about a foreman?

A-- He wanted some of them to take the foremanship, but none of them would take it.

Q-- Why not?           Didn't the foreman get more pay?

A-- He didn't get enough pay to suit us.

Q-- And none of you wanted to be foreman?           A-- No.

Q-- Did you have plenty of posts and lumber after this?

A-- We had, as long as we had a foreman.

Q-- How did you come to get a foreman?           A-- I don't know, there was one came there one day, he didn't tell us he was a foreman for a while.

Q-- What did he do?           A -- He just stood around and watched us for about a day.

Q-- How long did he watch you?           Did you need watching



so much? A-- Well, I don't know, he just stood around there, and one of the men says, "I am going to know what he is here for," and he went and asked him.

Q-- What did he tell him? A-- He said he was there for the foreman.

Q-- Then what happened? A-- We stopped our work to get orders from him to see what he would do.

Q-- What did he tell you? A-- He said, "Go on and do your work, you are doing right."

Q-- That was a pretty good sort of foreman. What happened then? A-- We worked away.

Q-- When did you get your posts and lumber?

A-- We ran short several times afterwards, we had a little tinkering around to do.

Q-- Did you get plenty of posts and lumber from that time on? A-- No, several times we ran short.

Q-- Of one, or both? A-- First one, and then another.

Q-- There were 18 men there all the time? A-- Yes.

Q-- Were you standing at the road, or away from the road?

A-- We were back away from the road.

Q-- How much of the time were you able to work?

A-- I wouldn't like to say just exactly -- about three-quarters of the time.

Q-- What was the foreman doing all the time?

A-- He was around there all the time.

Q-- Still watching you? How did he come to leave you?

A-- I can't say, he said, His leg played out, and he quit.

Q-- When he quit, you were left without a foreman again?

A-- Yes.

Q-- You must have been a pretty reliable crew by that time. What happened then? A-- One of the men working in the gang took the foremanship then, whilst we were on, and we were all laid off together.





Q-- How long after that?           A-- I can't say, we got the trestles finished up, and were laid off, the whole bunch of us.

Q-- Did that foreman understand how to put up trestles?

A-- Well, if he did, it is funny to me, he didn't go ahead and do the work the way we did it before, he wanted us to put up one at a time, make a bent and put it up; and the men got sick and tired of climbing up every time they made a bent; so we went at it and worked the way we did it before, that is we would make six or eight bents and then pull them up.

Q-- Is that why the foreman left?           A-- No, not that I know of, I can't say what he left for, only he said his leg played out and he had to quit.

Q-- How did you get along putting up the trestles?

A-- All right, we put them up all right.

Q-- What length was the timber that came for you to use on the trestles?           A-- Well, all the way from 30 to 45 feet.

Q-- What was the length of the timber you did use in the trestles?           A-- That lower trestle was 18 to 25 feet.

Q-- Did you not have timber there of the length you required for the trestle?           A-- No.

Q-- What did you have to do?           A-- We had to cut them.

Q-- Wouldn't that mean a certain amount of waste?

A-- It sure did.

Q-- Very much waste?           A-- There would be from 6 to 12 feet off each one.

Q-- What became of those pieces?           A-- They were piled up in a pile down there, I don't know what became of it.

Q-- What kind of material was it?

A-- It was cedar and pine.

Q-- What quality of work?           A-- I think the lumber



was all fir.

Q-- And the posts were cedar? A-- Cedar and fir.

Q-- Of good quality? A-- Yes.

Q-- Was the lumber of good quality? A-- First-class.

Q-- Was it better than need be used on work of that kind?

A-- No, sir, it was dressed on one side, it takes pretty good lumber for braces.

Q-- Was there any waste at all in the use of the lumber?

A-- There was a little.

Q-- Not as much as there was in the timber?

A-- No, in the posts.

Q-- Was your trestle well built, and satisfactory?

A-- It certainly was; the trestles we put up stood the work.

Q-- What was the cost of putting up material used in these trestles? A-- I have no idea at all.

Q-- The material from the excavation was dumped there?

A-- Yes.

Q-- Did you see anything about a lot of rock being dumped?

A-- The last trestle that was built, they dumped a lot of soft dirt there, and then came along with three train loads of rock and dumped in the rock and smashed down four bents on us.

Q-- In another trestle? A-- Yes, the last trestle we built.

Q-- How was that? A-- They dumped this rock and dirt in, it was sliding out, and they dumped the rock on top, and it slid it out that much quicker, and came against the trestle and smashed it down.

Q-- What would be the amount of damage, do you know?

A-- I can't say; there were four bents all smashed to pieces.

Q-- Was Mr. McRae there then? A-- He was there just





shortly after they were broken down.

Q-- What did he say about it?      A-- I can't say what he said, there was a foreman at the time.

Q-- Did the foreman say what the amount of damage was that was done at the time?      A -- He said that there was about \$1000., he was talking in an off-handed way.

Q-- You don't think it could be as much as that?

A-- I don't think so.

Q-- What was the cause of the non-delivery of the posts, and of the lumber, so far as you can tell?

A-- I can't say what was the cause, I know that the lumber was ordered by the foreman, I don't know who the foreman was talking to, but Mr. McKee asked if we were short of stuff, and he said we were short.

Q-- Did he say he would send the lumber up?

A-- He said they would send it up.

Q-- It didn't come?      A-- It didn't get there until a day or two afterwards.

Q-- You are speaking of the job you were on?      A-- Yes.

Q-- Do you know whether or not this was an ordinary occurrence over the work?      A-- I can't say, only on the job I was working on.

Q-- Did you notice on the job whether there was any waste of material, except what you have mentioned?

A-- Nothing only where we were working.

Q-- Where did you work after that?      A-- I worked across the river for a while.

Q-- You didn't work any more on this job?      A-- I worked at Queenstown last fall for a while.

Q-- Have you any general knowledge of the management of the carpenter work on the Queenston-Chippawa job?      -- No.

Q-- Have you any reason to think that the shortage of material, the non-delivery, was something that occurred on



any other part of the job? A-- Well, in places I have worked, it has occurred, shortages of material.

Q-- You are referring now to what work? A-- On the Hydro, or where I heard them talk about, I can only tell from hearsay.

Q-- Wherever you worked, there was a shortage of material from time to time? A-- Yes.

Q-- Is there anything more about it that you know?

A-- Nothing more I know of.

THE CHAIRMAN Have you any questions, Mr. Acres?

MR. ACRES: I have not; the only thing I suppose, is where he speaks of the two foreman quitting, and I should imagine there was a lot of discouragement from Mr. McRae, before they quit their jobs, perhaps they were glad to quit before Mr. McRae was through with them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Didn't Mr. McRae get along well with the foremen?

MR. ACRES: I should not imagine they would get along well with a foreman like that, I guess it was because of the way the foremen were made from the neck up.

THE CHAIRMAN: A good share of the time they hadn't a foreman.

MR. ACRES: I suppose he couldn't get one, they were a scarce article. We had over six hundred carpenters on the job, and it takes quite a number of foremen to handle them.

THE CHAIRMAN: You heard what Mr. Embury said about those posts, about waste?

MR. ACRES: There was no avoidable waste there, those posts came in standard lengths of 30, 40, to 65 feet.

THE CHAIRMAN: Wouldn't the posts be brought on the job in the lengths required for the trestles?

MR. ACRES: We had to cut the tops off the





posts in order to place caps on, and we had the posts delivered in the nearest standard lengths so they could be cut down with the minimum waste. The pine Mr. Embury spoke of was the finest B. C. fir, and we couldn't take a chance on putting hemlock into those trestle braces because we were running heavy trains of 8 cars, with 50 ton locomotives, and the trestles were 60 feet high, therefore they had to be substantial structures. We used No. 1 B. C. fir, and the poles for the trestle itself were B. C. cedar.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suppose the trestles just remained there?

MR. ACRES: They were buried, the only things we were able to sell were the 12 x 14 stringers, and the ties, the bents were left buried. Of course, occasionally there would be a load of rock in which there was a large boulder that would drop against the trestle, bent and break it. That was an unavoidable occurrence, but occasionally we would have a serious accident on the dump, so that is the precaution we took.

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PATRICK SAUNDERS.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your occupation, Mr. Saunders? A-- Machinist.

Q-- Were you employed at any time on the canal?

A-- I was employed from July 13th, 1920, until May the 22nd, 1922.

Q-- Do you know anything about the organization of the machine shop? A-- Well, only in so far as it relates to my own work.

Q-- That is, of course, all you can speak of. Who was in charge of it? A-- Mr. Richmond was the general



foreman.

Q-- Who was the Master Mechanic? A-- Pete Reid.

Q-- What have you to say about the qualifications of these men for the work? A-- In any case I seen, sir, I think they were quite efficient in their work, drawing a comparison with other places I have worked.

Q-- You think they were well qualified for their work?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- What do you say as to the general efficiency in the machine shop? A-- I think it was efficient, sir.

Q-- Did you have any trouble with the boot-leggers or with drunkenness around there? A-- No, sir.

Q-- Not at any time? A-- No, sir, had no trouble at all of that kind.

Q-- What about the men in charge, were they sober all the time? A-- Yes, any time I seen any on the job they were sober, sir.

Q-- And in the shop? A-- In the shop, I don't think that would be relevant to the question.

Q-- Oh, yes. A-- I may have seen one, not drunk, off the job.

Q-- Drunk? A-- No, not drunk.

Q-- Did you have any charge of any of the work done at the forebay? A-- I didn't have charge of the work at the forebay, no, sir, I had quite a few jobs that were individually up to me to see put through, but I was not in a position of authority as foreman, or anything of that sort.

Q-- Have you observed the work that was going on down there?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- What have you to say about the methods followed, could they have been improved on? A-- That, of course, is not for me to say.





Q-- You would have an opinion? A-- I don't think so, not very much, I think that the efforts of the foremen that were over me were conscientiously for production, I know that personally I was always spurred to further efforts.

Q-- What about the elevator shaft? A-- I am hardly competent to express an opinion as to the elevator shaft, I know of work done on the steel staircase, but with reference to the shaft itself I didn't see that work put there, sir, I was not there when that was constructed.

Q-- Did you work on any of the shaft? A-- No.

Q-- What shift did you work on, night or day?

A-- When working in the machine shop for 8 months, the shift changed every two weeks, we worked from 7 to 3; from 3 to 11; and from 11 to 7; after that my work was all day work.

Q-- What was the trouble with the night shift, or was there any trouble? A-- I didn't see any trouble on the night shift, when I was on the night shift I operated the radial drill, and a large percentage of the work was done on the shovels, and was kept pretty busy.

Q-- As far as material is concerned, were there any cases of waste brought to your attention? A-- No, sir, there was not any waste in the machine shop you could speak of.

Q-- Did you see any waste anywhere else? A-- There were things that in a smaller shop would possibly be considered as waste, such things as Mr. Acres has mentioned, for instance, not salvaging the timbers, and old forms.

Q-- In that case, it would have been a waste to have salvaged it? A-- Yes, on a smaller job it would have been considered waste to have let them rot or be destroyed, but I do not consider it was waste here.

Q-- Do you know of cases where that material might economically have been collected and used afterwards?



A-- I do not think so. In tearing down the trestle work, any of the forms that might be saved, were saved and hoisted on cars and used along the canal bank for reclamation.

Q-- Did you get any overtime when you were there?

A-- Very often, sir, yes.

Q-- Was overtime given pretty freely, or properly given?

A-- I can't say that it was given pretty freely, the time we got most overtime was on shovel repairs, when there would be an emergency job, in such cases it was not logical to change the shift, and send away one shift and put <sup>on</sup> a new gang in order to finish the repairs, because the other shift would not know just where we were at.

Q-- What about the lining of the elevator shaft, I think you have said somewhere that it was a bad job? A-- It was a bad job, the work in there, that was the intention of my report.

Q-- That the work was done badly? A-- No, I wouldn't say that the work was done badly, I suggested that possibly it should have been given better lining, to make it danger proof.

Q-- What was wrong with the lining? A-- There was a great leakage in the shaft, water coming in from the canal.

Q-- Does that still continue? A-- That was fixed up.

Q-- If it had been properly constructed would it have been all right from the first? A-- I would not say "if properly constructed", I am not competent to make that statement. I was wondering if it wouldn't have been possible to make a better job; I am not competent to say it could have been done.

Q-- Was there much pressure? A-- I don't think there was much pressure, it seemed to be seeping through.

Q-- Did that water come from the forebay? A-- Some came





from the forebay, and some from the natural rock formation.

Q-- Do you think some work should have been done on the forebay that was not done?      A-- Quite possibly; the forebay might have been reinforced in some manner with lining that might have lessened the amount of water that came in.

Q-- The bottom of it?      A-- Outside.

Q-- That is what you had in your mind?      A-- That is what I had in my mind, yes.

Q-- You would hardly be able to pass an opinion on that?

A-- No, sir, that is what I mean, I am absolutely not competent to pass an opinion on that; that was my opinion, that it might have made a material difference.

Q-- If that had been lined there might not have been the pressure on the walls of the elevator, and there might not have been that leakage?      A-- That is my intention, in that remark.

Q-- Is there anything you would like to bring to our attention?      A-- I don't think there is, sir. I just came here in good faith to tell the truth as I know it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think there is anything more.

MR. ACRES: The Commission may be interested in hearing about the elevator shaft.

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think it is worth while.

MR. ACRES: The leakage in the elevator shaft is what came from the top strata. I wish you to know that a number of people claimed we were taking a big chance in not putting in a water-proof floor on the forebay; that was shale, and practically sealed itself before we put the water in, and with the water in, we had a permanent bottom.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: If you had put in enough horse manure it would have sealed it.



MR. ACRES: Any leakage in the elevator shaft we intend to stop anyway.

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ARTHUR D. MELTON.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your occupation?

A-- Garage proprietor, at present.

Q-- Were you employed on the canal? A--Yes, sir.

Q-- When? A-- From October until July, from 1919 to 1921.

Q-- Where were you employed? A-- In the machine shop.

Q-- Have you anything to say about the machine shop?

A-- In what way?

Q-- Whether the best men who were employed there had any pull in the shop? A-- In regard to pull, I didn't see any pull, I didn't get any myself, any pulling I got was hard work.

Q-- You weren't in the machine shop? A-- Yes.

Q-- So far as your ideas go, was it run properly, in the most efficient and up-to date way? A-- In the majority of cases.

Q-- What about the minority of cases? A-- It was only attributed to about one foreman.

Q-- What about one foreman? A-- I say that he was not efficient.

Q-- What was wrong with that foreman? A-- He was not efficient.

Q-- Can you tell why you say he was not efficient?

A-- Because he was not a mechanic.

Q-- Who was this man? A-- Mr. McDonald.

Q-- He was not a mechanic? A-- No, sir, not from my standpoint.

Q-- How did he come to get into the machine shop if he was not a mechanic? A-- That I can't say.





Q-- Do you think the efficiency of the work suffered because they had this man who was not a mechanic in charge?

A-- To a slight extent it did.

Q-- What do you say about the machinery, was it up-to-date, or inefficient? A-- The machinery, according to my idea, was very good under existing conditions.

Q-- With workmen who were good mechanics? A-- I don't mean that, you asked the question, was the machinery up-to-date, and I am answering that question, I say the machinery was in good condition, capable of turning out a good class of work, under existing conditions. You can't put a brand new machine into such a shop as that, where every class of mechanic handles it, and get the best results.

Q-- Should every class of mechanic have a chance to handle that machinery? A-- Not according to my experience.

Q-- You think they should have used men who were specially qualified to work on that machinery? A-- They did have.

Q-- Some who were there were efficient, but some were not efficient? A-- With the exception of this one foreman, the machines themselves did not suffer because of the man that operated the machine, but there was floor work that suffered.

Q-- In what way would that suffer? A-- I mean that the man who would go to do the job would not understand how to do it, and how the work was to be undertaken, he had no more idea how it was going to be carried out, than a fly. I guess that is what I am here for, to be candid.

Q-- Certainly.

A-- I remember he gave me a job to do outside on the shovel, and it was dark, there were no electricians to put lights up for us, and the job had to suffer, I explained the case to him, and he said, "Oh, well, do the best you can." At that time I was employed in the tool room, that is my trade, a tool-maker; and he fetched me



out of the tool-room and told me to go on the shovel, I told him it was ridiculous for me to go on the shovel when we were so short of workmen at that time, but as they wanted the shovel out in the worst way I had to go and do the work, but I couldn't get any light.

Q-- He sent you out to work on the shovel, work you didn't understand, and he gave you no light when you were there?

A-- It was just outside the machine shop. That is why I say the foreman was inefficient. That was just one foreman; in regard to the others, I think they were first-class in every respect.

Q-- Was there any evidence of the use of liquor around there? A-- Only on one occasion.

Q-- What was that? A-- That was just one occasion, I don't know whether it was Saturday or Sunday, one person was drunk, but I considered it was in his own time, he was not on duty, therefore, I don't see where it reflected on the work whatever.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Was he a foreman?

A-- Yes, he was.

Q-- Who was he? A-- Mr. Richmond.

Q-- Was he a pretty good man when sober? A-- Yes, sir, he certainly was.

Q-- What kind of whisky did he drink? A-- I don't know, I would like to have got hold of it.

Q-- You don't know? A-- No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Were repairs made quickly and efficiently? A-- Very quickly, in my estimation.

Q-- And very efficiently? A-- Under the existing conditions.

Q-- Have you ever had any experience working in a shop for a private company? A-- Yes.

Q-- What do you say as to the difference between where the





shop was run by a private company, and a shop such as operated by the Hydro? A-- Of course, there is a big comparison.

Q-- Make the comparison. A-- If a private company, or construction company, it would not handle the class of work that we handled nowhere near it; and shops owned by private companies are built for the purpose, and machines are built for the purpose, and when you are given a job you can carry it right straight through, while on construction work, as far as my experience taught me, you could not always carry a job through yourself, because you would be relieved by another shift, and you cannot carry on the work the same as you can with a private company.

Q-- Is there anything else, Mr. Molton? A-- Nothing in particular, as I know of.

Q-- Were there whiskey runners there who were selling liquor at times? A-- There might have been in exceptional cases, but not under my notice whatever, only just the one case I stated is the only time I came in contact with it actually.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acres, do you want to ask anything?

MR. ACRES: I think not; I think Mr. Melton is to be complimented on the distinction he has made between a machine shop owned by a private company, and one of our repair shops; I heartily concur in his opinion of McDonald the foreman.

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HENRY GORTH.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your occupation?

A-- Tool maker.

Q-- Did you work in this machine shop? A-- Well, I did partially, yes, for the first 3 months I was there in



the machine shop, and later I was in the tool room.

Q-- How would you describe conditions in the machine shop, do you think it was efficiently run? A-- Yes, it was, considering what we had to contend with.

Q-- What was that? A-- Different classes of work, it was so varied.

Q-- What do you say about Mr. Richmond, was he a competent man to be in charge? A-- He was not a Sunday school teacher, you couldn't expect it of him, with the load he had to carry.

Q-- Was he a man who would get the best results out of the work, out of the men employed there? A-- His ways were rough, but I believe he got the best results from the men he had, taking it on the whole.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: He was doing rough work?

A-- And had rough men too, I am going to tell you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you have anything to do with him yourself? A-- Very little, he would ask for the job to be made, some tool to be made, and would let it go at that until the job was finished.

Q-- Do you know anything about the stores? A-- Only as far as my own department went, for steel.

Q-- What do you say about that, what was the system in handing it out? A-- The system was all right, there was a lot of red tape, which was necessary, I suppose.

Q-- Were there any abuses in handing out supplies?

A-- That I can't say.

Q-- Have you any reason to think that any of the stores given out were not used for the work on the job?

A-- Well, no, I can't say definitely.

Q-- Have you any suspicions? A-- I did have, several times.

Q-- What caused you to have those suspicions? A-- I saw





stuff come out of the stores, and it was not used right away.

Q-- Do you say it should have been used at the time?

A-- I cant say, I was not in the machine shop all the time, I had my own little department and that is where I stayed as a rule.

Q-- Have you any reason to think what became of it?

A-- No.

Q-- You dont know what became of it. What made you think it was not for use on the job? A-- As I say, I never saw it used immediately.

Q-- Did you see it used at any time? A-- Some cases I have, yes.

Q-- But in some cases? A-- In some cases I have not seen it used at the time.

Q-- Who got the stores in the cases where you say it was not used at the time? A-- That, I cant say definitely.

Q-- Some of the men who worked there, or some outside men?

A-- Well, some of the men working there.

Q-- Who would give the orders for it. A-- The foreman.

Q-- Do you think, if it was not used for anything on the job, the foreman would be in collusion with someone.

A-- Not necessary.

Q-- Wouldn't he? A-- No.

Q-- Why not? A-- Take in a great many shops, a man will go to the foreman for a requisition for such and such material, and it is easy enough to slip in something extra on the requisition, the foreman does not know every article required, he does not know of every bolt, nut, and screw used on the job.

Q-- It might be given out and might be taken away?

A-- Might be, yes.

Q-- You have a suspicion that sometimes it was taken away.

A-- Yes, I did have.



COMMISSIONER HANEY: Who did the slipping, do you know of any of the men who did this? A-- No, personally I dont.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: Are you talking about steel altogether? A-- No, different materials used in the machine shop.

Q-- How much would a man be likely to be able to cart out on his person. A-- It depends on what he went in for, whether large or small stuff. You often find in a machine shop that a man wants a little extra material around the place.

Q-- Very often, in a machine shop, the workman requires extra material, which may not be used for the particular purpose, but it is necessary that he should have extra bolts and nuts when working on repair jobs? A-- Surely.

Q-- And such bolts and nuts are always lying around? There is always a certain amount of that kind of material lying around a machine shop, that is used, and is useful?

A-- Yes.

Q-- And never returned to the stores? A-- Yes.

Q-- You want clamps for planers, and lathes, and all that sort of thing? A-- That is true.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know anything about a dredge boom? A-- No, nothing directly, only from hearsay evidence.

Q-- What is that? A-- In my position, I was never out of the shop, so I never even seen the dredge boom.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Acres, have you a record showing how much was spent to rebuild that dredge boom, have you got that information?

MR. ACRES: Yes, we have that percent.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you recollect at the moment how much it was?

MR. ACRES: No, the dredge boom maintenance is





one of the items of 'repairs'. It would be a simple matter to get that information from the record. Of course, in our record unit cost, maintenance is a separate item, but appears in the record in a lump sum of so many dollars and cents.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything you want to ask this witness?

MR. ACRES: I think not.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Gorth, come here again for a moment, please.

Can you give the names of those men who took things from the machine shop? A-- Why, no, as I say I cant prove they did take things.

Q-- How do you know that things were taken out.

A-- I did not say I knew that they were taken, I said I suspected they were taken.

Q-- That is as far as you can go. A-- That is as far as I can go surely, It was not my duty to chase them up to see whether they were taking anything or not.

Q-- But you must have come to your conclusion from circumstances that took place? A-- I did not see them put into use, and they were issued on a requisition.

Q-- You knew who ordered them out? You knew who put in the requisition for them from the foreman? A-- Surely, I knew the foreman who signed the requisition.

Q-- You knew the man who handed in the requisition from the foreman. A-- I did at the time.

Q-- Dont you know now? A-- It is nearly two years ago.

MR. ACRES: Possibly Mr Gorth means, according to his idea, the organization was such that there would be an opportunity for that kind of thing to happen. A-- That is exactly it. I did not see the stuff put into use immediately on the job it was ordered out on. It might have been ordered in good faith.



MR. ACRES: It might be days before that material was actually put into use, that is particularly possible in our shops by reason of the fact that jobs were coming into the shop instantaneously, at all hours of the day and night, and I have heard men curse everything blue and say, what kind of a job is this where they do things like that, simply because they did not have the material handy in the machine shop to do that particular job. You must remember that one shovel being broken down cost hundreds of dollars while out of repair, and had to be given the preference.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: You had an emergency repair shop to look after breakdowns. A-- Yes.

Q-- A very different thing from the ordinary repair shop turning out a standard product by the thousands.

MR. ACRES: Yes.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: I never saw a machine shop where they were doing standard repair work where there was not more material taken out of the stores than was used, they have to have bolts and screws for emergency repairs, and do not want to have to go to the storeroom for emergency stuff all the time, and then return the surplus to the storeroom.

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WILLIAM DOUCETTE.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where you working in the machine shop?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- What about the organization there? A-- I think it was very good.

Q-- And the men in charge were good? A-- Yes, the man who had charge over me was very efficient.

Q-- What about drawings that were made? A-- I dont know anything about those.

Q-- Do you know anything about any material being taken out?

A-- Not at all.





Q-- When did you work for the Hydro? A-- In 1920.

Q-- How long were you there? A-- About 7 months.

Q-- Were you at the machine shop all the time. A-- Yes.

Q-- Do you know anything about overtime? A-- I just worked eight hours, just a shift?

Q-- Is there anything about the machine shop you think should be brought to our attention? A-- Not to my mind, I was just a drill hand, I did not require to have orders, I just did the work as it was brought to me.

Q-- So far as you know, the machine shop was run well and the work went out in good condition? A-- I always had lots of work and was well kept going.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Is John Shields here?

(No response).  
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JOSEPH WILLIAMS.

THE CHAIRMAN: Were you employed on the canal?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- In what capacity? A-- Carpenter.

Q-- Were you one of the men who worked with Mr Embury?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Perhaps you might tell us what you know about that?

A-- I was on there for eight months, and had three different foremen during those eight months, Mr. Reid was the first one, then Mr. Samuels; and as far as I can say, the work went on in good shape, splendid.

Q-- Were you there at the time there was no foreman?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Did you hear what Mr. Embury said about that?

A-- No, sir.

Q-- He said that there was a lack of material, that you did not have enough material to work with? A-- Yes, we were



a little slack on account of not having material at one time, but there was lots of work to be done when we were slack of material, there were footings to be put under the sills, and bents to be made.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Did the carpenters do the excavating for the footings? A-- The carpenters' helpers did the excavating, and we placed the sills.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Embury said there was a time when there was no material for you to work with there, also that you were without a foreman, and Mr McRae used to come to the work, and he would send out lumber and posts. A-- There were times when there were no planks there, but there was always something else to do, we could raise the bents, and there was different kinds of work to be done.

Q-- Mr Embury said that Mr McRae would come around and tell the men not to stand so near the road when they had nothing to do? A-- I never heard that.

Q-- He also said that some of those posts were too long, and there was a lot of waste. A-- Yes, sir, there was some that was too long, the posts were 45 to 50 feet long, and there would probably be 5 or 6 feet on the top that would be too small.

Q-- And that would have to be cut off? A-- Yes, sir, but a lot of those posts were used for braces at the footings.

Q-- And throughout your work did you practically always have enough material to work on? A-- While I was under Mr. Samuels there was once when I was sent across to the other side of the canal under another foreman, and we were delayed there for one day, so we took the runners up to the top of the trestle and used them for braces, they had to be used anyhow, so we took them and used them for braces.

Q-- You would not say that the work was done at a disadvantage, at too great an expense sometimes, because of material





not being on the job for the work when required?

A-- No, sir, I wouldn't, I don't consider that there was a man around there who did not earn his money, while I was there.

Q-- Do you know of instances where material was wasted?

A-- No, sir, not only what was necessary.

Q-- Would there be more or less waste in cutting it up?

Was good material thrown aside and not used? A-- No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you anything to ask this witness?

MR. ACRES: Is it your idea that a man had the opportunity, if he had reasonable ambition, to earn his pay, that Mr. McRae had lots of work there for him to do?

A-- Yes.

MR. ACRES: Mr. McRae tells me that the bulk of the long ends cut off the posts were brought into the mill and sawed into lumber.

THE CHAIRMAN: According to Mr. Embury's evidence, they were left in a pile.

MR. ACRES: Mr. McRae is here, if you want to ask him to discuss Mr. Embury's evidence.

THE CHAIRMAN: Has Mr. McRae heard Mr. Embury's evidence?

MR. ACRES: He didn't hear it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, let him speak to us.

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I FAROUHAR McRAE.

MR. ACRES: Perhaps Mr. Haney remembers Mr. McRae.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. McRae, you did not hear Mr. Embury's evidence just now? A-- No, sir, I didn't.

Q-- Do you remember the time you were left without a foreman in charge of those men? A-- There was a foreman I had on the trestle at Chippawa, up to the M.C.R. bridge, and there might be a time when they were without a foreman between times until I got another foreman in his place, it would be a very



short time, until I appointed another foreman.

Q-- Mr. Embury said that a man turned up there one day, he stood around for sometime before they knew who he was.

A-- It was not very long.

Q-- And after a while, he went off. Mr. Embury says they were often without material. A-- I have no knowledge of it.

Q-- Mr. Embury also said that you would sometimes come up and find they had no posts, and you would send them, and at times they had lumber but didn't have posts to work with.

A-- They always had lots of work.

Q-- He also said there were times when they didnot know what to do because the material was not at hand. A-- They certainly had material, or something to do; if they did not have posts, they could set up sills, and run it up. They always had something to do, as far as I know. It was not because we didn't have some work to do: there might be trouble with the trains and there would be a congestion on the line, when there would be a little delay, and certain work would have to be put off until after six o'clock. We tried to keep clear of the earth they dumped in, as much as we possibly could, but it was inconvenient at times. As far as I know, they always had some work to go on with.

Q-- I suppose it was your business to see that they were kept busy with work. A-- Yes, sir, we tried to do it. I did everything I could to keep them going, I dont think there was a moment when they did not have some work they could do with material of some kind; sometimes it was hard for us to get material. They would go and put up stringers until we got stuff in; if they were slack in one place, we moved them to another place along the job.

Q-- Mr. Embury says that during the time they were slack, they were on the road, and you sent them back so people would





not see them. A-- No, sir, that is an absolute untruth, that is not right, sir.

Q-- You have no recollection of such an occurrence?

A-- I have no recollection of saying anything like that.

MR. ACRES: One of those trestles was verging towards the Long Road, and we had to stop building that trestle because it was beginning to crowd out towards the fence line, and what this brilliant individual has got into his head is that the trestle had got too close to the road, and he was told not to build any more of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: That remark may have referred to the trestle instead of the men. Does Mr. McRae work for you now?

MR. ACRES: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you regard him as an efficient man?

MR. ACRES: He is the mainstay on the job.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think somebody said that the job wouldn't have been done yet if Mr. McRae hadn't been around.

MR. ACRES: Mr. McRae, and a few men like him, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything further you would like to say?

WITNESS: No.

Q-- What experience had you before you went to work for the Hydro? Did you work on any big jobs? A-- Yes, I worked with Brown & Aylmer of Campbellford, I contracted for myself for fifteen years on different kinds of work, and then went with Brown & Aylmer of Campbellford, and worked on the Seymour Power House, and then put in the substation, then I came back and worked for Haney, Quinlan & Robinson for two years and a half, and put in three quarters of the lower part of the power house at Healey Falls, and I was in full charge of that work. I went back and completed the power house as foreman for Mr. Goodwin. Then I came with the Hydro.



I put in two dams for Brown & Aylmer, and I put in two locks for Haney, Quinlan & Robinson at Campbellford; I had the experience in connection with the two power houses, and when I was with Mr. Goodwin, they wanted me to come here, and that is how I came to be with the Hydro.

Q-- You have had a good deal of experience.      A-- I certainly have, I have been around woodwork all my life time.

MR. ACRES:      Mr. McRae tells me that a lot of these cut ends, waste material from the lining plant, was used that he used about 20,000 feet of commercial lumber.

As far as the waste of material on the work is concerned, I am told that we sold about \$350 worth of so-called waste material.

THE CHAIRMAN:      What kind of stuff were you selling?

MR. ACRES:      Scrap timber, etc.

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THE CHAIRMAN:      Is Mr. Stevens here?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN:      We will adjourn until 9.30 tomorrow morning.

(The proceedings adjourned at 4.50 p.m. Wednesday, February 7th, 1923, until Thursday, February 8th, 1923, at 9.30 a.m.).

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HYDRO ELECTRIC ENQUIRY COMMISSION.

Niagara Falls, Ont.

February 8th, 1923

9.30 A.M.

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P r e s e n t:

W.D. Gregory, Esq.,	CHAIRMAN.
M.J. Haney, Esq.,	COMMISSIONER.
R.A. Ross, Esq.,	COMMISSIONER.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acres, there were two fires I think to which no reference has been made yet, one at Montrose, and the other at Queenston?

MR. ACRES: Yes, Sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Tell us about those: take Montrose first of all.

MR. ACRES: I might say, Mr. Gregory, by way of introduction, that all the serious fires we had on this job were of electrical origin.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think there was one caused by lightning; you call that electrical?

MR. ACRES: Yes: I mean to say that the fire damage on this job was almost wholly due to the fact that electrical power was used as the means of operation. The Chippawa substation fire was caused by reason of the fact that we used electric power at Chippawa to operate our machinery. The cable-way fire was also of purely electrical origin, due to the fact we had transmission line leads in that district leading to our work at the intake. The Montrose fire was simply due to the fact that the substation at Montrose was operating the plant at that end.

THE CHAIRMAN: When did the Montrose fire take place?



MR. ACRES: I think it was in June of 1921.

Q-- What was destroyed there? A-- The substation was totally destroyed.

Q-- What was the nature of the structure? A-- It was a semi-permanent structure, with concrete foundations and floor slabs and gunnited walls.

Q-- On wooden supports? A-- Timber frame work, with gunnited finish, and corrugated iron roof?

Q-- What was the amount of damage done? A-- The station was completely destroyed, I think the insurance records show that we got \$124,000.

Q-- Did that cover the total loss? A-- If I remember rightly that \$124,000 pretty well covered our book value of the plant as it stood.

Q-- Was there any insurance on the building itself?

A-- The whole thing was insured as a unit.

Q-- The equipment and the building. A-- The building and equipment.

Q-- I was told there was no insurance on the building.

A-- No, that is not correct. I think possibly we can show the valuation of it.

MR. POPE: \$11,000 on the building, \$110,000 on the equipment, \$835 on the pump house, \$500 on the wind-break fence, \$170 on the pump house, and \$1,500 on the oil tank -- a total of \$124,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: At what amount was it carried on your books?

MR. ACRES: Do you mean the value?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: The cost?

MR. ACRES: As a partial answer, I might say that every month the insurance people got a statement from the engineer's office here as to the current values of insurable



property. That was more or less necessary by the fact that we had a great many buildings insured in which the contents were of a various nature, for instance, the store house, and a monthly valuation was made of the contents of the building, and the risk varied from month to month.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you make a monthly statement of the value of the equipment too? A-- Yes, of depreciation, and so on. We have it here. The cost of the building was \$16,000, the salvage on the foundations, and the depreciation, reduced the direct loss on the building itself to \$11,725; the equipment in that building was inventoried at \$135,014. The equipment in the Montrose substation was inventoried at \$135,019; the salvage recovered from that, which was more or less scrap, such as copper scrap and soft iron, less depreciation, brought the value of the contents of that building down to \$110,000. And our values were accepted as the amount of the indemnity paid by the insurance company.

Q-- What was the total amount of the insurance?

A-- I might explain also, Mr. Gregory, that the insurance on this work was not carried in separate policies.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: The insurance was carried on a blanket policy? A-- Yes, carried on a blanket policy.

THE CHAIRMAN: What constituted this property?

A-- Everything, from one end of the work to the other, everything we asked to be insured was included in the list which the underwriters kept, and the insurable value of this property was kept up-to-date by variations from time to time, monthly, and the various items on which insurance was undertaken to be covered by the underwriters, so, when the total loss occurred, they paid us according to that list, as being what we considered was the value of the property destroyed. So, on the basis of this adjustment, we got full settlement for what we considered we lost in the Montrose





fire.

Q-- The cause of that fire was what? A-- Well, as far as we could make out, the cause was due to a breakdown in the insulation on a bank of transformers.

Q-- I notice in a statement made by Mr. Armbrust, he says:

" I can't say where, it probably started in the transformer, or in the oil switch. I was told that one of the motors on the transmission was throwing fire, and that caused the oil switch to break down when it was opened."

MR. POPE: Have you seen Mr. Heaton's report?

THE CHAIRMAN: I have it here.

MR. POPE: There was an investigation made of both fires, by the Fire Marshal.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am speaking of the evidence given by an employee in charge, before Mr. Heaton.

MR. ACRES: I think the trouble was in the transformers. It was a bank operating between the Chippawa substation and St. Catharines. That is a bank of transformers installed in a lean-to against the main building, and that possibly had something to do with the fire getting the start it did, because they were in a separate compartment from the main building, and it was more or less a condition similar to what occurred at the power house, where the trouble was confined, to a certain extent, and it was hidden until it developed into rather serious proportions.

COMMISSIONER R.A.ROSS: You attribute the trouble to an explosion in the transformer? A-- I think so, sir.

Q-- What transformers do you use there?

A-- They were rebuilt.

Q-- Were the cases filled. A-- As far as we know, the cases were full. This transformer had not been in operation very long, it is a short time, and an oil test was made before



it was put into operation.

MR. GABY: Was there an air space between the cover and the top of the oil? A-- I dont know about that.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: Was there anything that lead you to think, Mr. Gaby, that there may have been a short circuit of the lining?

MR. GABY: I dont know the details, except from the reports sent in, and apparently it was a short circuit, or something that came in on the line that caused the converter to throw sparks, and explode the switch of the transformer; it may have been an explosion in the transformer.

COMMISSIONER R.A. ROSS: Did it rupture the tank at all?

MR. GABY: Yes, everything was pretty well fried up: two other transformers showed no evidence of disturbance at all, I saw the transformers, and the cover had been moved somewhat.

COMMISSIONER R.A. ROSS: Your gunnite was not sufficient protection to it from the inside, or outside?

MR. GABY: Just on the outside.

COMMISSIONER R.A. ROSS: You say it exploded the studding?

MR. GABY: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acres, was there a crane there that swung around? A-- No.

COMMISSIONER R.A. ROSS: Have you ever had a case of the crane short-circuiting the wires outside.

A-- We have had lots of that, Shovels are doing it continuously with the trolley wires.

G-- Was there anything of that nature in connection with this matter that you know of. A-- There could not have been, that was 600 volts on that circuit-breaker which was on the compressor motor. Our overload really is on the





600 volt D C, we kick off 8,000 amperes on the converters at the station time and time again and never know it at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: What about the Queenston fire, Mr. Acres?

MR. POPE: We would like to file the report of Mr. Heaton.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we have that report.

MR. POPE: I would like it to go into the minutes.

MR. ACRES: All I know about the Queenston fire is incorporated in these reports.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would rather have your statement by itself; can you give us your own statement about the Queenston fire? A-- That happened in the early part of May, 1921, on May 7th, it started on Saturday Afternoon, and happened after 5 o'clock after everybody had gone home.

Q-- Was that on the site of the power house. A-- Yes, there was nobody around there but one or two watchmen and two or three concrete men who were working overtime on a shift, doing some concrete shooting for a run on Monday. And in the case of the erection of No. 1 generator, I understand the Westinghouse Co. were accustomed to putting rather heavy electrical heaters, three phase heaters, at the base of their generator to warm and soften the coils in order to make them workable for insulation purposes.

Q-- You were to let us have photographs of these buildings, have you them with you? A-- Yes. (Book of photographs produced).

MR. GABY: Mr. Acres, just explained where those coils were. A-- On this particular day, presumably through the necessity of their process of erection, several of these heaters were left in operation after the working force had left the work.

THE CHAIRMAN: When did the men leave?



A-- At 5 o'clock, that was the regular hour for leaving on Saturday Afternoon, the apparent intention being to leave these heaters in operation over night, possibly over Sunday, I dont know, in order to keep the large coils in workable shape for further operations, with respect to insulation. A short time after 5 o'clock smoke was noticed coming out of the building, as I understand, and by the time the few people who were on the work investigated to find out what was the matter, the whole interior of the temporary house for the generator was filled with flame, which immediately thereafter burst through the roof and reached the form work on the roof of the building. The time was so short that the concrete men had hardly a chance to get down from the scaffold. After that, the fire progressed pretty much along the manner described in the reports which you probably have on file.

Here is a picture -- I am sorry the corner is broken off -- showing that temporary house, No. 1 generator. That is the temporary building that was installed for the generator to facilitate the work of erection.

Q-- Where did the fire go? A-- It jumped right up to the roof of the building.

Q-- There is no roof shown. A-- No.

Q-- Of what material was the roof? A-- Re-inforced concrete slab. What caused the trouble at the time was the fact that the formwork was still in place under the slab, a lot of the form work was in place where the slab had not been poured.

Q-- Was there much damage done to that work? A-- Yes, quite a serious amount of damage done, it held up our working schedule for about a month, before we removed the traces of the trouble and got it started again.

Q-- I notice in the report it says:





" that the primary cause was due to the use, by the Westinghouse Company, of highly inflammable materials in the necessary course of their operations."

And also the use of electrical heaters? A-- Yes.

Q-- The report says: "

" The secondary cause was due to the presence of two Electric Heaters, installed by the Hydro, at the request of the Westinghouse Company, which were kept running continuously day and night."

It appears that it was a combination of these two things, in the temporary shed used by the Westinghouse Company where they used much gasoline and other inflammable materials, combined with the fact that the shed had no ventilators, and in the shed were five or six heaters going day and night, which made a fire probable.

Were you familiar with the surroundings there?

A-- No, sir.

Q-- Who was familiar with the surroundings, on your staff?

A-- That particular piece of work was under contract.

Q-- By the Westinghouse Company? A-- By the Westinghouse Company, yes. My knowledge of that particular class of work is unimportant, I don't know much about it. My function on work like that was in connection with the hydraulic machinery.

Q-- Your duty would be to look after things there on behalf of the commission. A-- The electrical department of the commission would have jurisdiction there; my only function, as far as the electrical machinery, was to facilitate in every way the work of the erection of the electrical plant by co-operating and co-ordinating it with the construction work and the erection of the hydraulic machinery. As far as the program of work was concerned, they were more or less related, but as far as the details of





the actual erection, or any technical matters relating to the electrical contracts, I was not concerned in that at all.

Q-- Of course, the Commission would be interested in knowing the conditions that existed, which might lead to the destruction of their own part of the <sup>8</sup>contraction. A-- Yes.

Q-- Here was a condition which the fire marshal says not only rendered a fire possible, but he goes farther and says it made a fire probable there. A-- Yes.

Q-- Had you had any report before, as to the dangerous conditions that existed. A-- No.

Q-- Had there been a report made to anyone about conditions there. A-- I dont remember myself whether there had been or not, I cant say from memory.

Q-- Who would make the reports, if any were made?

A-- Probably Mr. Gaby could answer that question.

Q-- Would you know, Mr. Gaby?

MR. GABY: The resident electrical engineer on the job, who was co-operating with the contractor, the inspector would make his report from time to time. I dont know definitely, but as I remember it, I think the matter was discussed from time to time as to the character of the job, the installation being carried on in there, and as to the operations: they were matters entirely under the control of the contractor, the Canadian Westinghouse Company.

THE CHAIRMAN: While the contractor was in control, if you saw any inflammable material being accumulated, which imperilled your own structure, surely you would see that it was removed?

MR. GABY: The question of fire hazard was discussed from time to time, and instructions were given as to

: inflammable materials being issued, and as I remember a report was made by the inspector to his immediate superior. This was a temporary structure inside of the concrete power-



house and used for the purpose of accomodating the work of the Westinghouse Company. We had not completed the power-house superstructure sufficiently to protect the Westinghouse workmen from the weather, and in the meantime they had to be provided with a temporary structure, and these operations were carried on by the Canadian Westinghouse Company within that structure. Of course, precautions were taken to avoid any such accident as did occur.

Q-- But they were not effective. The fire-marshal says that conditions were such that a fire became a probability.

MR. GABY: I think he was referring to the character of the materials which they necessarily used in the operations. In the process of erection they had to use gasolene for cleaning these laminated iron coils used in the building of the stator plant, and that gasolene was used in the ordinary way, they had to use it in connection with the process of erection. As to the storing of gasolene and other materials on the ground, it was only a small quantity which they are permitted to use in their actual operations. As to the fumes that remained after the operation, that was difficult to contend with, because it was cold weather, and there was not much ventilation. With regard to the varnish on the coils, the coils had to be varnished, and were impregnated with things of that kind. With regard to the temporary shed; there was much gasolene, varnish, and other inflammable material stored in that shed, there was no ventilation, and there were five or six electric heaters going day and night.

Q-- It is pointed out in this report that those conditions made a fire probable. A-- That may be so, but gasolene had to be used in small quantities, and in order to afford protection, it was stored in the shed. At one time, these





precautions were discussed with the manufacturers, at the time they were using this shed, and the surplus was supposed to be taken out of the shed. Sections of the stator had a large number of coils that are impregnated with varnish, but I do not think there was any large quantity of varnish in this shed.

Q-- He said there was much. A-- I think he refers to the large number of coils in the shed.

Q-- The report says that there was much gasoline, varnish, and other inflammable materials in the shed. A-- That would refer to the coils. To my knowledge, there was not a very large quantity of gasoline in the shed, just a few gallons, which the men used when washing those plates.

Q-- Did your men in charge call the attention of the Westinghouse people to the dangerous conditions that existed, and the extent to which the Commission's property was imperilled. A-- I think the extent to which our property was imperilled, except for the delay that occurred, was minor to that of the Westinghouse Company.

Q-- Do you think it was not important for your engineer to look into it? A-- It is my recollection that when the reports were received the matter was discussed and rules set out as to smoking, and things of that kind, to prevent the possibility of fire as far as possible.

Q-- The report received from your engineer stated that he had taken the matter up with the Westinghouse Company and pointed out the danger. A-- Those matters were discussed between the Westinghouse Company and the Commission.

Q-- How long before the fire was the report received by you. A-- I cant say.

Q-- Can you tell to whom the report was made. A-- No.

Q-- Whose report was it? A-- The report of the resident engineer on the job to his immediate superior.



Q-- What was the name of the resident engineer?

A-- I believe it was Mr. Robinson who was on the job.

Q-- He is the one who made this report to you as to the dangerous conditions.      A-- He would not make the report to me, but directly to his superior, to Mr. Brandon, or Mr. Bell.

Q-- That report would be on file.      A-- Whatever there is would be on the records of the Commission.

Q-- Could you let us see that report?      A-- Anything we have is at your disposal in connection with it.

Q-- Can you let us have that report?      A-- I will have it looked up as soon as I return to Toronto, and see what it is.

Q-- Have you got it, Mr. Pope?

MR. POPE:      No, but I have Mr. Heaton's report.

THE CHAIRMAN:      You haven't your engineer's report?

MR. POPE:      No, sir.

MR. GABY:      I think our insurance ran in the neighborhood of \$16,000.

THE CHAIRMAN:      You received the full amount of the damage you sustained?

MR. POPE:      Yes.

MR. GABY:      I think somewhere around \$16,000 damage to the concrete, and form work, and the building we put in.      It was not all considered a loss at the time.

THE CHAIRMAN:      There would be serious delay, loss of time.

MR. POPE:      The Hydro assigned their insurance to the Westinghouse Company, and they cleared up the whole thing, except the grounds.

THE CHAIRMAN:      Was there any insurance on the temporary framework that the Westinghouse people constructed?

MR. POPE:      Yes, sir, we had insurance, and they





had blanket insurance, they carried blanket insurance covering all their stuff, either in transit, or in the course of construction.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you quite sure there was insurance on the temporary structure out of which the fire originated?

MR. POPE: Yes, sir, I am quite sure.

COMMISSIONER R.A. ROSS: Was that insurance carried by the Westinghouse Company, or yourself. A-- By ourselves payable to us.

THE CHAIRMAN: You mean that the Westinghouse Company had certain framework which was their own property, which they erected. A-- No, sir.

Q-- Not the covering over the motors? A-- No, the Hydro building was used to cover them up.

Q-- The Westinghouse Company would do that. A-- It was to protect the apparatus they were installing.

MR. GABY: They had blanket insurance to protect the equipment, and plant, amounting to \$250,000; and the Commission had blanket insurance for the same thing, for the stuff we had in the power house, amounting to \$361,500; these amounts of insurance being on the same equipment practically we combined, and the various insurance companies got together and settled the damage with the Westinghouse Company. In addition to that, the matter was taken up with our own insurance department and the loss adjusted for damage done to the building.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: Did you recover from the insurance companies the damage, first, on the temporary building that covered the Westinghouse generator.

A-- My recollection is, that was recovered, and we received the amount of damage done to the crane.

Q-- Did you receive damages for the destruction of the forms? A-- Yes, sir, those are all included in our





claim to the company, for forms, temporary building and crane.

Q-- Did the insurance companies cover all your damage, and pay for it? A-- I cannot say whether it was all paid for, but I understand the greater per centage was collected, I think it covered pretty well all we suffered in connection with the damage to the forms, crane, and temporary building.

Q-- The Westinghouse Company were carrying on work there just in the same way as they would in the armature department, or field department, of their own works, they were using insulated coils covered with varnish. A--Yes.

Q-- And Cambric, and so on? A-- Yes.

Q-- And they were softening their own coils with heat.

A-- They kept two or three heaters alive during the absence of the men, immediately in the centre of the stator, that is made of cast iron, with coils inserted, and heaters were kept in there to keep the coils soft. Other heaters were used for heating the building, and they were turned off during the period of unoccupation, as far as the buildings were concerned.

Q-- Were the coils destroyed? A-- Absolutely.

Q-- What about the iron? A-- All the iron within that building was destroyed, including the castings.

Q-- What about the machinery? A-- I should say that there were probably five sections of castings, including sections No.1 and No. 2, that were made unfit for use: that is, the heat or the fire caused cracking.

Q-- So that the insulation was actually destroyed. What about the rotor? A-- The rotor was not in, the stator is built in four sections, and it may be that they could save certain of the iron which was used to build up the stator.

Q-- Your insurance covered all the damages. Did the insurance carried by the Westinghouse Company do the same?



A-- I would say it did, but they dealt with that matter entirely themselves.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gaby, between the amount received from the Westinghouse Company, and the amount received by the Commission, the total loss was covered by insurance.

A-- I should say, that is my recollection of it, yes.

Q-- Are you positive about that? A-- That is my recollection of the final finding.

Q-- Would you say then that the entire loss suffered by the Commission was paid by the Insurance Companies.

A-- I would not say the entire loss, because we had lost time.

Q-- I mean with respect to the loss on insurable, tangible property. A-- As near as I recollect it, yes.

Q-- So that all the damage to your forms, and concrete work, was covered by insurance. A-- That is, the material damage to the forms: there would be the cleaning up of the debris, and things of that kind which, of course, would not be covered, but the replacement of the forms and temporary structure would be covered.

Q-- Was there much damage done to the concrete itself?

A-- I wouldn't say a great deal: that was cleaned up by simply gunniting and plastering, that was practically all that was necessary. Part of the concrete wall had been torn down, I don't remember to what extent it was replaced.

Q-- The material damage done to the concrete was paid for by the insurance companies? A-- As near as I remember, yes.

Q-- Can you speak positively? A-- No, I am just speaking from recollection.

Q-- Can Mr. Pope speak positively as to that?

MR. POPE: I know that the insurance was adjusted to the satisfaction of the Commission, I can't tell





What the figures were. The insurance company took an assignment of the Hydro policy, and reimbursed us for the loss on the crane, and building, and everything outside of the apparatus, and they restored and replaced the damage caused in that.

THE CHAIRMAN:- I am asking Mr. Pope, whether all the material damage done to the structure was covered by insurance, and paid by the insurance companies?

MR. POPE: I understand, yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: You cannot speak positively?

A-- I cannot give the exact figures.

Q-- You are not sure. A-- I am as sure as can be without looking at the figures; we were covered by insurance and got our insurance.

Q-- You cant speak positively as to whether all the damage to the concrete, for instance, was covered by insurance?

A-- That is my understanding.

Q-- Are you sure that the concrete was covered at all?

A-- The whole structure, as well as the crane, and those things were covered.

Q-- Fully covered. A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Well now, will you give us a statement showing the extent of the damage done and the amount of the insurance received. A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Showing exactly what the insurance that was paid covered. A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Very well, you will let us have that at once.

A-- I think so. We had a total of \$361,500 insurance on the whole business.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gaby, what damage did you sustain, outside of material damage, and the kind of work you were speaking of just now? What would be the extent of your lost time, and the expense of cleaning up?



MR. GABY: Probably a month's lost time: there were certain cleaning up operations that had to be carried on, but I cannot give you the monetary value, because I haven't that information with me.

THE CHAIRMAN: Wouldn't you know that?

A-- I would not like to guess at it.

Q-- That must be somewhere in your construction cost.

A-- It may be an estimate in some cases?

Q-- Who would make that estimate, Mr. Gaby? A-- It would be made by various parties: Mr. Acres would have something to do with it, and other engineers; the work was carried on under the direct jurisdiction of Mr. Angell and Mr. Acres.

Q-- Perhaps Mr. Acres can tell us what damage was sustained which was not covered by the insurance, in the way of lost time.

MR. ACRES: There is no possible way of estimating that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Wouldn't it enter into your cost?

A-- It did, to a large extent, the Montrose fire was very, very serious, it was an important item entering into our cost.

Q-- What about the Queenston fire? A-- It was not so serious because it was more or less a matter by itself, it was self-contained, as it were, but the Montrose fire effected our operations on the canal from one end to the other.

Q-- You cant tell the amount of damage sustained outside of the material damage that was covered by insurance?

A-- No, sir, it is impossible except to guess.

Q-- Give a guess. A-- I think I guessed once at about a million dollars.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: That would be on account of the





Montrose fire. A-- That was charged mostly to the Montrose fire; you can appreciate the effect of the Montrose fire on our work, it paralysed our railway system.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would the million dollars you speak of apply to the power house? A-- I don't remember whether I included the power house in that million dollar guess, or not, but it would be mostly charged to the Montrose substation

MR. GABY: As a matter of fact, the loss of time, as far as the power house was concerned, was not material, because the generator was ready in time to go on operating at the time the canal was ready: it was only the cleaning up, and other things.

MR. ACRES: There were not so many widespread operations depending on the normal progress of the work on the power house, as was dependent on the normal operations and functioning of the Montrose substation.

THE CHAIRMAN: You put the indirect loss at Montrose at a greater figure than you do at Queenston?

MR. ACRES: Yes, very much greater.

Q-- I enquired just now as to whether the concrete work on the building was covered by insurance, but Mr. Pope and Mr. Gaby could not say. A-- I don't know.

MR. GABY: I have just received information that the concrete damage amounted to 15 to 20 yards that had to be replaced in the power house -- it was very small.

THE CHAIRMAN: What amount of insurance did you get?

MR. GABY: That I cannot say.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pope will look that up for us.

MR. ACRES: I might say, Mr. Gregory, as far as the question of protection in the power house is concerned, we had stringent rules laid down with regard to the disposal of inflammable material, and those rules were enforced directly under the authority of the power house





superintendent.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who was the power house superintendent?  
A-- Mr. LeRoy.

Q-- Was he with you now? A-- Yes, he will come here in a minute. As far as he could have any control over the matter under discussion he saw to it that waste material lying around, was not left lying around with any undue carelessness, if he saw waste, and other material like that, in the vicinity of that building occupied by the Westinghouse Company, that was apparently not being in contingent use, he saw to it that it was put in a safe place, or taken outside the reach of any fire hazard in the power house itself.

Q-- There might be stuff that would do much damage if a fire broke out, and it was for him to see that due precautions were taken to prevent fire? A-- Yes, and I think we tried to do that.

Q-- Your reports which will be given to us should show what steps were taken by your men? A-- Yes.

MR. GABY: In that connection, I have before me a statement which does not cover it in full, but to a great extent -- the damage incurred by the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: From whom? A-- It is just a memorandum.

Q-- Made by Mr. Pope? A-- Yes. The memorandum gives the following figures: loss on crane \$8,604.19, on construction shed \$1,500, and that all expenses incurred by the Hydro Electric Power Commission on account of fire in connection with this equipment was covered by insurance contracts. And those are things we made a claim on.

Q-- Let us have a statement showing the amount of insurance you received in each case for the four fires.

MR. POPE: We have it in detail, in some place.

THE CHAIRMAN: We would like to have it in detail,



and you will let us have copies of all the reports?

MR. POPE: The report regarding the Montrose fire is here in detail, and regarding Chippawa, that is pretty well in detail, and the cable-way.

THE CHAIRMAN: You will let us have copies of all the reports filed?

MR. ACRES: Have you had any evidence to the effect that the erection of the generator, and that temporary house, was an unusual or dangerous thing?

THE CHAIRMAN: We have the statement of the Fire

MR. ACRES: Marshal. / Apart from that there has been no tendency to criticise the procedure in erecting the generator under the shelter of the wooden house?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. ACRES: It is not a unique thing, or an unprecedented thing, it is common practice. I think Mr. Ross knows that.

COMMISSIONER R.A. ROSS: I have heard no comments on that.

MR. ACRES: I have pictures of the old generator, back in 1904.

MR. POPE: I should like to read this portion of Mr. Heaton's report, under date of June 16th 1921.

" Re Fire May 7th, Power Plant, Queenston.

Our investigation into this fire is now concluded after a full and thorough hearing. The evidence adduced before me at Niagara Falls on June 13th, 14th and 15th, from twenty witnesses, embraced every eye-witness and those who could shed any light on the cause and origin of the fire. As a result I believe we can successfully establish the cause.

..... the primary cause was due to the use, by the Westinghouse Company, of highly inflammable materials in the necessary course of their operations.

The secondary cause was due to the presence of two Electric Heaters, installed by the Hydro, at the request of the Westinghouse Company, which were kept running continuously day and night.





" Neither of these causes would of themselves create a fire, but the combination of both resulted in the fire in question.

I do not know whether you would care to have any detailed explanation of the circumstances that led up to this necessary combination which resulted as I have said, but perhaps it will suffice if I point out that in the temporary shed which was erected by the Hydro for the sole use of the Westinghouse Co., operations involving the use of gasoline, shellac, varnish, and alcohol were continuous and extensive.

The shed in question was almost wholly devoid of ventilation, and was made as nearly air-tight as such a temporary structure could be. In the shed were installed, for the purpose of keeping the surroundings as dry as possible, no less than 5 or 6 large capacity electrical heaters, two of which ran continuously day and night (supplemented by the others as was necessary) and which were operating at the time the fire occurred.

Gasoline and the other materials I have referred to give off highly inflammable vapour, and being heavier than air travel towards the ground, and the most natural channel they follow is in the direction of the heat and artificial light. This combination not only resulted in the fire in question but contributed to its rapid spread, because of the presence of what must have been a considerable volume of inflammable vapour.

We did not have the least evidence that the fire was in any way due to defective or imperfect electrical installations, but on the other hand, the evidence was clear concerning the hazard involved in the processes of the Westinghouse Co. I am not prepared to say that there was any negligence, or carelessness, or at all events not to any such extent as to warrant the least reflection upon that Company, or upon the employees of the Hydro Electrical Commission, but I think I am justified in again pointing out, as I did in my letter regarding the Montrose fire, that temporary construction work involves circumstances which would not be tolerated in a permanent structure, and which carries hazards incidental to the operations carried on in such temporary structures."

There is a distinction between this and the ordinary way of doing things.

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WILLIAM L. LeROY.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where do you live?

A-- At Queenston.

Q-- What do you do?

A-- I am Superintendent of Construction.



Q-- What position did you hold at the time of this fire?

A-- The same as I do now -- in charge of the building.

Q-- You knew about the work of the Westinghouse Company that they were carrying on? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Did you make any report to the Commission upon the conditions which existed there? I refer to the possibility of fire? A-- No, I didn't. I took the matter up from day to day with Mr. Angell, when he came down.

Q-- What did you say to Mr. Angell? A-- I don't think I ever had any suspicions of fire starting there.

Q-- What did you say to Mr. Angell? A-- I never spoke of fire at all.

Q-- You didn't? A-- No.

Q-- You never called his attention to the possibility? The Fire Marshal said that conditions were so bad that a fire was not only a possibility, but a probability. Did you not call anyone's attention to that? A-- I didn't see it in any way, sir, or I certainly would have called attention to it.

MR. ACRES: There were one or two conditions in connection with the Westinghouse Co. that you had remedied, with regard to waste lying around.

A-- We had waste picked up, and any refuse that was lying around, we drew the attention of the Westinghouse Co. to it, the same as we would to any of our own employees.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you have any written communication with the Westinghouse Co? A-- No.

Q-- Did you examine the shed where all the inflammable material was stored? A-- Yes, sir, I was in quite often, that was a shed belonging to the Westinghouse Co., as a matter of fact, but it was under our construction department

Q-- Did you consider that you had anything to do with it?

A-- Outside of a casual visit, I had nothing to do with





the work.

Q -- Had you anything to do with seeing that conditions existed there which would render the possibility of a fire remote?      A-- I did.

Q-- What did you do to remedy conditions?      A-- If we saw refuse lying around, we had it picked up and taken away.

Q-- The Fire Marshal says there was not sufficient ventilation.

MR. ACRES:            That was a necessary part of the operation in connection with the work being carried on, it was constructed for the purpose of holding the heat, and was designed with the minimum of ventilation, not merely due to circumstances, but to confine the heat.

THE CHAIRMAN:        It seems to have confined the fumes too.

MR. ACRES:            It did, unfortunately, but that is a thing that none of us were in a position to remedy from the standpoint of hazard.

THE CHAIRMAN:        Did you consider it from the standpoint of hazard from the lack of ventilation?

MR. LEROY:            No, sir, I didn't.

COMMISSIONER R.A. ROSS:    The Westinghouse Co. evidently found it necessary to make the building as air-tight as possible, to prevent dust?

MR. ACRES:            Yes.

COMMISSIONER R.A. ROSS:    As a matter of fact, the building was especially erected, having regard to the dust being kept off the coils?

MR. ACRES:            Yes; we first erected the house over the governors.

Q-- The idea was to make it as air-tight as possible?

A-- Surely.

Q-- In order to keep out the dust?      A-- Yes, where you





~~have ventilators,~~ you have dampness and dust.

Q-- You have the coils impregnated with varnish, which has to be cut with gasoline, and alcohol, and there are bound to be fumes in the place? A-- Quite so.

The point I wished Mr. LeRoy to bring out was, to have him say, insofar as he was able to say with regard to the method of carrying on the work, as to the workmen, and so on, and whether he thought there was any undue fire hazard in connection with the building.

COMMISSIONER R.A. ROSS: He didn't.

MR. ACRES: Pardon me, he did; the particular circumstances Mr. Heaton mentioned in that report had to do with certain things ~~about~~ which Mr. LeRoy had absolutely no right to speak, in other words, the ultimate cause of this fire was seated quite a long way below the erection floor of this generator, at a point where he had no authority to go, far down under the rotor shell, where nobody had a right to go, or work, except the Westinghouse workmen. There were two things down there that were absolutely necessary for their work -- the rotor shell in which they were working contained the inflammable varnished coils, and the gasoline necessary to clean those coils, and the varnish necessary to put on those coils, and the heaters to keep these various appliances workable. Mr. LeRoy's examination could not possibly have disclosed the condition of the items in that particular operation, and that is where the fire started. The only way we could have prevented the hazard was to stop the erection -- as I see it. I want to point out that Mr. LeRoy, as far as any incidental hazard was concerned, saw to it that it was properly looked after.

COMMISSIONER HANFY: That was a Westinghouse Company's

Job? A-- On several occasions he reproved them for



leaving waste lying around; he didn't consider it advisable to make a complaint -- isn't that a fact?

MR. LEROY: Yes, sir, if they didn't clean it up, we did it ourselves.

MR. ACRES: We could not say a word about these heaters being used in the shells.

COMMISSIONER R.A.ROSS: I should think, as your superintendent was responsible for it, if conditions existed there which rendered it possible for a fire to occur, which would destroy Hydro property, that he would have jurisdiction to take the necessary action to lessen the hazard?

MR. ACRES: No, sir, those conditions were absolutely necessary to the erection. Conditions exactly similar existed at the power house, we felt we could not alter the methods adopted, that we could not interfere with the methods they used.

MR. GABY: That is the general way of carrying on construction work of that kind, only this was a small building made of galvanized iron, of frame construction, housed in from the weather. That is almost an unheard of thing. The only damage we had was to the form-work, and 15 or 20 yards of concrete in the building. It is almost an unheard of thing to have form-work burned the way we had it burned, and it was due to the excessive heat generated by the Westinghouse equipment. Those operations had to be carried on the way they were carried on. The gasoline was used to wipe off the stator iron, and for cutting the varnish. That is normal operation in connection with the erection of a generator, and is being carried on to-day in the same manner by the other companies who are erecting the power-house; they have a temporary structure situated over the generator, and they use gasoline for wiping the iron, and so forth, for the erection of that building. They





couldn't carry it on in any other way than they did carry it on, and we felt that they were taking all the necessary precautions, as far as it was possible. These heaters had to be there, and they were the safest heaters that could be used for drying; they were electrical heaters, protected by sheet iron, with very small openings. Only the heaters that were necessary to be kept going were used to keep up the warmth.

THE CHAIRMAN: It amounts to this: that the Westinghouse Co., or any others, could not instal a generator there, without conditions being brought into existence which rendered a fire highly probable?

MR. GABY: I would not say "highly probable," because these things have been carried on for years and years, and they have handled inflammable material such as gasoline, varnish, etc., in the construction of any building for that purpose.

THE CHAIRMAN: According to the Fire Marshal, the conditions were such that a fire was highly probable; it seems to me, if men were working in my house, and were carrying on their work in such a manner that the house might be burned down, I would find some way to remedy it; it seems to me that I would have men standing by to put out a fire if it started.

MR. GABY: There were watchmen there, who changed shifts. I think you will find later on in the Fire Marshal's letter that he refers to the actions of the Commission and the actions of the employees of the Westinghouse Company, and he exonerates them to a large extent from any negligence on their part in carrying on the necessary operations, as far as they were concerned.

THE CHAIRMAN: He emphasizes, perhaps more than anything, the lack of ventilation in the shed. Surely that



shed could have been ventilated at that time?

MR. GABY: There is a certain amount of ventilation, you cannot erect a structure of that kind, comprised of sheet boarding, framework, and make it air tight, there is a certain amount of ventilation, but it was necessary to retain as much heat as possible because of the operations they were carrying on, and the electric heaters were used for the purpose of drying out the equipment: in other words, this was a drying-out oven for the equipment, which was being installed. In connection with the drying-out operations being carried on it was necessary to prevent moisture, and so forth, that would get into the coils. That procedure was necessary in connection with the operation of that stator..

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Le Roy, did you hear any statement as to the direct origin of the fire?

WITNESS: A-- No, sir, I did not.

Q-- Did you hear anything of people throwing some cigarettes, and starting the fire in that way.

A-- I didn't.

Q-- Have you any reason to think that that may have been the cause of it. A-- No, sir, we had watchmen every few feet around that place, and when the Westinghouse employees left their work, the watchmen went in and looked all over to see that there was nothing left there which would cause a fire.

Q-- Your watchman was the last man in the place before the fire took place? A-- To the best of my knowledge, yes, sir.

Q-- What is his name? A-- I believe his name is Robert Weir.

Q-- Is he with you yet? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Where is he? A-- He is watchman on the





Administration Building, if my memory serves me right, it was Mr. Weir who was watching there, I am pretty sure.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pope, you will let us have those reports?

MR. POPE: I will, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acres, do you want to ask Mr. LeRoy any questions?

MR. ACRES: No, sir.

MR. GABY: Almost identical operations have been carried on in connection with five complete machines that have been erected in the power house today, operations were carried on in enclosed structures, and the installation was carried on under similar conditions and circumstances.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think you might have had a man at hand to put out a fire.

MR. GABY: We had watchmen there all the time.

THE CHAIRMAN: A fire like that might put the plant out of business.

MR. GABY: I doubt it, sir, it would be localized. Our damage, as far as material damage was concerned, was not very large; there would have been no damage to the crane if it hadn't been that the crane was located immediately over that section at the time.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Did you ever know of an accident to occur that was not due to carelessness on the part of somebody?

MR. GABY: It is always chargeable to somebody, the human element nearly always enters into any untoward circumstance.

THE CHAIRMAN: When did you begin to reduce your staff of labourers?

MR. GABY: I think about the middle of July, 1921.

THE CHAIRMAN: What plan did you follow, did you just





let them off by gangs, or did you make any selections?

MR. GABY: No, we let them off largely by gangs, that is all we could do at the start, that is, a large gang of men would be laid off, and wherever possible the better men were re-hired,

THE CHAIRMAN: You would let the whole gang go, and if there were any especially efficient men you would re-engage them.

MR. GABY: Each gang would be let go at the time, for instance, at Queenston, and there might be no way at the particular time of selecting a separate shift for work on another part of the job, without considerable loss of time, and holding these men on the job when they were not needed, so they were laid off, and there was no difficulty in a good man being re-hired somewhere on the job, as long as he was needed.

THE CHAIRMAN: It should have toned up the quality of your labour.

MR. GABY: Yes, and it did, we noticed a differer by the middle of August, there was a distinct improvement on the production.

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W. B. McDONALD.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where do you live, Mr. McDonald?

A-- My home is at Welland, but at the present time I am living in Detroit.

Q-- What is your business? A-- I am a mechanical engineer.

Q-- What training have you had in that line?

A-- I served five years as an apprentice engineer, also six years with the Glasgow, West of Scotland, Technical College, and two years at the Glasgow University.



Q-- Are you a member of any engineering organization in Canada?      A-- I am a member of the Institute of Engineers, Canada.

Q-- Were you employed on any works during the war?

A-- I was.

Q-- Where?      A-- I was plant engineer for the Canadian Aeroplanes.

Q-- Whereabouts?      A-- On Dufferin Street, Toronto. I was also, at the same time, general manager of the Wilson Munitions.

Q-- After you were through there, what did you take up?

A-- I joined the staff of the Electric Steel & Metals.

Q-- When was that?      A-- In 1919.

Q-- How long did you continue with them.      A-- To the end of 1920, when the place closed.

Q-- Then what did you do?      A-- For some time I was practically idle, except for a short time when I was at Niagara Falls here as foreman in the shop.

Q-- Were you employed by the Hydro Electric Commission upon the construction of the canal?      A-- Only in the machine shop.

Q-- When did you go in there?      A-- It is so long ago, I don't remember the exact date, but it was either May or April, 1921.

Q-- What was your work there?      A-- I was shift foreman in the machine shop.

Q-- What would that work be, I don't understand that?

A-- Well, the machine shop was run for twenty-four hours, and the day was divided into three shifts of eight hours each, and I had charge of one of the relieving shifts in the machine shop.

Q-- Would that be where the repairs were made?      A-- Yes

Q-- Who were the other foremen there?      A-- There is





only one name I can remember, Mr. Howard, and there was a Mr. McCracken who was there for a little time, and the other name I can't remember. The general foreman was Mr. Richmond, and the master mechanic was Mr. Reid.

Q-- How long did you continue in that position?

A-- Until the break-up, about July, 1921, sometime.

Q-- Can you tell us something about the work that you did, and the conditions that existed in the machine shop there.

A-- I can tell you in a general way.

Q-- Just tell us in a general way.

A-- The time is so long ago now, that things have become obliterated; but you know it is a very difficult thing to carry on work in three shifts, with the work passing from one man to another, and it does not tend towards efficiency, that is to say, one shift comes in and takes over the work from the previous shift, and so on, and there is only five or ten minutes time in which to speak to the foreman who takes over the next shift, and there was more chance for error, also disagreement about the way the work is being done. For instance, there are three foremen, and each foreman may have, quite legitimate, three individual ideas as to how the work should be done, but it would not do to let each one have their say, there must be some definite way of doing the work. For instance, I remember there was a marine crank shaft being made, we were getting it ready to put into the lathe; you must understand that the crank shaft has to have false centres, and there has to be false pins on the crank shaft, and these false centres are put on the ends of the shaft, after the first end is turned. Now I started to work on that crank shaft and shrunk the first end good and tight, because it was a heavy shaft, and also because we hadn't the appliances that should have been there for that particular job -- of course that couldn't be avoided -- and the whole



load taken by means of set screws.

Q-- So what might be done by one man, might be undone, to some extent, by the next man? And that might be changed again by the third man? A-- Yes. Take, for instance little designs that were very often made now, for something required outside, it is quite legitimate, you might turn out a design and when the work progressed you would see something that couldn't be done; that arises in all cases, when the mistake is seen and a start is made to rectify the mistake, and by the time your shift came on duty again you might find the work in such condition that it could not be carried through, and you would have to make a fresh start again.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Was not the position of the General Foreman to co-ordinate the work between the different shifts? A-- I don't know what he was supposed to do.

Q-- Do you not know what he did? A-- He bulldozed those he could -- that is as far as I could see.

Q-- Wouldn't you naturally expect that the General Foreman would co-ordinate the work, any class of work that had to be done, to see that it was done in the proper way.

A-- Even suppose he could co-ordinate the work, there is a break between the day foreman and night foreman which must be bridged over.

Q-- Wouldn't it be bridged over by the General Foreman?

A-- No, the general foreman arrives at 7 o'clock in the morning.

Q-- Were there two general foremen? A-- Yes, one for night and one for day.

Q-- Naturally, one would think that the work of the General Foreman would be to see that the work being done by one shift, was carried on by the next shift so as to consummate it properly? A-- My idea would be that each shift when it came in should have been given a sheet showing





what was to be done on that job, also a drawing showing the job in its entirety, so that any man could have taken and carried it through to a finish, and if there was any special way the job should have been done, that should have been put on the slip.

Q-- You are speaking particularly of this shaft?

A-- I am speaking in general, of any work.

Q-- I thought you were speaking of this crank shaft?

A-- That is only an example.

Q-- Wouldn't that be the manner in which all work should have been done, determined by the General Foreman?

A-- It should have been.

Q-- It was not?                      A-- No, we were left with a free hand.

THE CHAIRMAN:              Do you say that each foreman was left with a free hand?              A-- I don't remember any case where restrictions were put on as to how the thing should be done -- I may be wrong.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS:              In a machine shop it is the practice to furnish a drawing, which is supposed to be followed.              A-- Yes.

Q-- When doing the work on that crank shaft, you had to put on false centres at the end; wouldn't that be taken up by the engineers, and instructions given to the mechanics in the shop?              A-- In a first class machine shop, that is to say, the modern practice is to have a special drawing outlining what is to be done.

Q-- You were not in a first class machine shop, you were in an emergency repair shop, where everybody was trying to get the repair job done, and under those conditions, an emergency repair, of that sort, is left to the foreman.

A-- In a modern machine shop, it has now come to the point where the thing is so big and complicated that there





must be care taken that the thing is repaired in the proper way. If you bring into the shop a unit out of a shovel, in the shape of a repair, <sup>the</sup> work can be done either from memory, or notes, or from a sketch.

Q-- That is right, but you brought up the illustration of the crank shaft that had to have false centres, and pins had to be used; under those conditions, a man would look at that job on the floor, call a mechanic and point out to him just what had to be done, and the foreman would be in charge of that work. A-- That is alright, if the foreman is there all the time to see the job finished.

Q-- Surely any mechanic, who calls himself a mechanic, who was given an out-line of the work to be done on a countershaft, would know how to do it. A-- The next man coming on might have a different opinion as to how the work should be done; very often it is a legitimate thing that a man should have a difference of opinion on the same class of work.

THE CHAIRMAN: Was there any man who had the final say, if there was a difference of opinion between the workmen, as to how the work should be done? A-- I think, no doubt, if it came to a final say, there would be a man.

Q-- Didn't it come to that? A-- No, it didn't.

Q-- Was there lack of efficiency in the shop, through lack of co-ordination between them? A-- I think so.

Q-- And lack of supervision? A-- I think so. Of course, in a machine shop like that, it can't be run on first class lines, we understand that, but where there are three shifts there should be some positive connection between one shift and the other. I would think that if there had been a good stenographer who could have taken down notes from the foremen, the information could have been given to the different shifts, and the condition could have been



clarified in that way.

Q-- That is, there would be instructions taken down from the foreman, which would govern the way the work was to be done until completed. A-- There were five minutes between the time one foreman was relieved and the next foreman came on the job, and you would tell him from memory what was to be done, but that isn't good enough, because probably when you got outside the yard you would remember something you should have told him, and would have to go to a phone or send a message.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Was it not the function of the General Foreman to have general supervision over all important work being done, to see that it was done properly, and carried through from beginning to end? A-- I dont know what the General Foreman was there for at all, I did not place him there, and I dont know what his duties were.

Q-- From your experience, wouldn't that be the practice?

A-- The policy would have been governed by him.

Q-- And it was not? A-- No, we were left to ourselves as far as those things are concerned.

THE CHAIRMAN: And the result was that work which was done by one man, might be undone by the next man, and it was not continuous. A-- I wouldn't go the length of saying that the work was undone.

Q-- Well, done in a different way by the others.

A-- Yes, and some times mistakes were made, not through a blunder, but through want of connection. I think, if the General Foreman had been supposed to look after that, that there would have been no difficulty in writing down the information as to how the work was to be carried through from one shift to another, but unless that is done, I do not see how you can expect to get anywhere.

Q-- And that was not done? A-- No.





Q-- Was it ever suggested? A-- Occasionally there was a sheet sent down, written by hand, it was something like a list of work; if the orders had been well filled in, that might have supplied the want.

Q-- Was there not a general foreman? A--There was, Mr. Richmond was General Foreman.

Q-- Was it not his place to do what you have just said should be done? A-- I don't know what he was supposed to do, I didn't appoint him.

Q-- Do you know whether he did, or didn't do it?

A-- I know there was not enough co-operation to carry on the work efficiently.

Q-- What have you to say as to the class of men who were employed in the shop? A-- I think, as a rule, the men were very good.

Q-- You think, as a whole, they were? A-- Yes, I think so, I think the trained men who were there were better than usual on that class of work.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Were they well directed?

A-- What do you mean?

Q-- Instructed as to the work they had to do.

A-- That is just the point I am telling you.

Q-- That is the point you wanted to bring out: where they or where they not? A-- Each foreman has his own ideas.

Q-- No matter how good the men are you have, unless they are properly directed, they are no good? A-- I would not go as far as to say that, because a good mechanic, who was given a job will carry it through.

Q-- I am speaking about special work, intricate work; unless the man is directed and told what to do he is not going to take the responsibility himself. A-- I want you to keep this in your mind, supposing the foreman, and the workman,



had carried the work through continuously, the result would have been good, but when you have one set of men with one idea taking the work for eight hours, and another set of men taking the work for another eight hours, both having slightly divergent views of how the thing should be done, it does not matter how efficient the men are, you cant get efficient work.

Q-- The general foreman is a man who should have an idea of how to continue the work from the beginning to the finish?

A-- Is the General Foreman there all the time?

Q-- He should have the idea, and see that one idea was carried out.

A-- If the General Foreman had been placed in the shop, and kept in the shop.

Q-- And directed the shop? A-- And directed how the work should be done, that would have covered the ground, with the exception of the break at 7 o'clock in the morning.

Q-- You undertake to say that that was not done? A-- No.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did the fact that that was not done interfere seriously with the efficiency of the job?

A-- I think so.

COMMISSIONER R.A.ROSS: Was not the General Foreman on the work all the time, in the shop? A-- He had to go out, he was not in the shop all the time.

Q-- Naturally, his headquarters would be there? A-- Yes.

Q-- He would probably have to go out when a machine broke down and see what had to be done? A-- Very often.

Q-- And he would have to have the machine brought in, or repaired on the spot. His headquarters would be in the shop? A-- Yes.

Q-- But you say that he should have been able to bridge over those gaps? A-- If there had been proper co-operation, he probably would have been able to be there all the time.

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Q-- I cannot see how the general foreman could look after all the details of every particular job, if he remained in the machine shop?      A-- I dont mean that he should look after all the little details -- we were not worrying about the details, but the general policy of the place.

THE CHAIRMAN:      You say that the General Foreman would have to go out some times?      A-- Yes.      In the case of the crank shaft, if there had been a proper policy with regard to what had to be done, there could have been a drawing, or writing, and the foremen would have known what to do.

Q-- Your idea is, if he had a general policy, it was not expressed in such a way that it was followed by the men. Well, in order to have the work of the General Foreman efficiently done, you must have an efficient General Foreman?

A-- Yes.

Q-- And an inefficient General Foreman would be the kind of man that the work was continually carried forward in the proper way?      A-- That is so.

Q-- What do you say about the efficiency of the foremen, did you have an efficient General Foreman there, was Mr. Richmond an efficient General Foreman?      A-- Judging by the results, I would say no.

Q-- Judging by what you saw of him?      A-- I saw the foreman of the machine shop, for co-ordinating and organizing for that particular thing -- I dont think he was the right man.

Q-- What ground have you for saying that?      A-- Just the way the job was carried on.

Q-- Tell us of some instances that cause you to arrive at those conclusions?      A-- Simply because there was no co-ordination on the part of the man who was supposed to do that.





Q-- The fact that there was no co-ordination showed he was not doing the work properly? A-- That was not his particular fort. He may have been an excellent man for other things, but for that particular thing, the results were not good. Another thing that I think spoiled the thing was, I never saw any drunkenness actually on the place, but I could see the effect of it; I never to my knowledge, saw a bottle on the place, but I know, from what I have seen afterwards, that it had been there.

Q-- When you say " afterwards" what do you mean, Mr. McDonald? A-- I mean I could see the effects.

Q-- On the men? A-- On the men.

Q-- You saw that the men must have come in contact with the contents of a bottle? A-- Yes.

Q-- Where they intoxicated? A-- What do you mean by "intoxicated"?

Q-- I think most people know what that means -- drunk. Were the men drunk on the job? A-- I would say that some of them were drunk, others were under the influence of liquor.

Q-- You wont go so far as to say that they were drunk; they could walk around? A-- Could walk around, most of them could do that.

Q-- Had they been drinking to such an extent that it interfered with the efficiency on the job? A-- In my opinion, yes.

Q-- That was a matter of frequent occurence? A-- Yes.

Q-- Did you ever see the foreman himself drunk?

A-- Mr. Richmond, I think, in my opinion, I have seen him drunk.

Q-- We were told by one of the witnesses that he saw Mr. Richmond drunk there? A-- I have seen him intoxicated,

Q-- If the General Foreman was drunk on the job, it would



have a bad effect on the men? A-- I should think so, they would think that if he could have it, they could have it too.

Q-- What do you say as to that drinking, it must have had some effect on the conditions which existed amongst the men, the fact that the foreman himself drank? A-- I would say it was bound to have an influence.

Q-- And did it have an influence, do you say that?

A-- Yes, I can say that.

Q-- Were there many of these men in the force who were drunk, or under the influence of liquor from day to day?

A-- I dont mean every day.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: After pay day, generally?

A-- I dont think it followed any direct rule.

Q-- It was spasmodic? A-- Yes, I would say it was, in fact, I cant give dates, but I remember when the shift I relieved was almost entirely intoxicated. Most of them had been drinking.

THE CHAIRMAN: What shift was that?

A-- Mr. Howard was the foreman.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Was that the night shift?

A-- What was the night shift at one time, was the day shift at another, every two weeks we changed.

Q-- Were they worse at night than in the day time?

A-- I dont think so, I never saw any difference. I only remember seeing one man in my own shift that was drunk.

Q-- What did you do to him? A-- I put him out a half a dozen times, then gave it up and let him sleep on the bench.

THE CHAIRMAN: Were others discharged, or kept on?

A-- I cant tell you. Howard was removed from his shift for awhile, but was back again, I mean to say, he kept his shift going eventually until I relieved him, whether anybody





also know he was drunk besides myself, I dont know, unless probably one or two of the men who happened to be there when the relief took place.

Q-- What was done with these men on Howard's shift that were drunk?           A-- I dont know.

Q-- Did they continue on the job?           A-- I cant tell you.

Q-- Would you not know if one of those men came on or not?           A-- I would know that they were an entirely new lot, but wouldn't know only a few of them.

Q-- Did the habit of getting drunk continue in this gang?           A-- No, that was the very worst I had seen, that day.

Q-- That is when they were all drunk?           A-- Not all -- it looked like a general rejoicing of some kind.

Q-- Was that after pay day, or a holiday?           A-- No, I would not like to say that.

Q-- Where there any competent men amongst the drinkers?

A-- There is good, bad, and indifferent all through; I would say as a general rule, the men were good.

Q-- Were any of the men kept on, in spite of their incompetence?           A-- No, I dont think so.           There were probably some men who were not as efficient as you would like, but I have seen worse, a good many times, in a private organization.

Q-- Did you ever speak to Mr. Richmond about the use of liquor in the shops?           A-- No.

Q-- Did Mr. Richmond himself discipline those who got drunk?           A-- No, not that I know of.

Q-- What else can you tell us about the machine shop, Mr. McDonald?           A-- I dont know, if my memory was racked there might be a few things on the same lines, but nothing that would tell you anything new.



Q-- You were there at this time, you saw the work, what do you say about the general conditions that prevailed on the work? A-- What do you mean?

Q-- General conditions on the work along the canal?

A-- I dont know anything about the canal outside, absolutely nothing.

Q-- What about general conditions around where you were working? A-- I dont know anything outside of the machine shop. I was employed there for two or three months, I arrived there to go on duty, and left there when my duty was finished; I dont know anything at all about it, anything I might say would be simply repeating stories, and that is of no use.

Q-- What do you say about general conditions? You have spoken about the machine shop conditions, is there anything you can mention further than that?

A-- The only thing I would say is that a good deal of the language was disgusting

and that only depends on where you are, and how you feel about it.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: It was construction language, was it, rather than parlour language? A-- It all depends upon how you feel about that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Going back to the drunkenness, you have been on a good many big jobs, was drunkenness more prevalent here than on other jobs where you have been?

A-- I have never been on work before where drunkenness was evident during working hours, there has been a man who would come down to the job when drunk, but he was an oddity, it was so odd that it was entertaining, but I was never on a job where it was so evident during working hours.

Q-- Have you anything to say about the system of promotion in the shops? A-- Nothing whatever.

Q-- As to whether efficiency was recognized or not?



A-- The only thing I might say is that when a large number of men were discharged, special care was supposed to be taken of efficient men, returned soldiers, and married men.

Q-- Was that done in this case.      A-- In my opinion, it was not.

Q-- You mean they were discharged in gangs.

A-- No, I mean they didn't take one shift and simply let that shift off, but the shift was broken up, and told to come back, and they would see that a certain number of men were taken on.      In my opinion, there was no special care taken with regard to returned men, or efficient men: it may have been that the efficient men were kept, but I would say that a great many efficient men were not kept.

Q-- There were a good many returned soldiers?

A-- I never was back again to see whether there was anything special in the way the men were kept or not.      As I said, as far as the men I came in contact with, they were good men. Of course, it some times doesn't lend itself to making men good, there is always a fairly large number of men it is hard to find employment for, that is to say, it pays to keep more men there than are required all the time.

Q-- It is better to have other men there in case there is an emergency?      A-- Yes, although it is some times hard to find a job for the man, and that resulted in a certain amount of skulking, that was bad for the men; some men who got a little of that, wanted to do it all the time.      You must keep men there for an emergency.      I believe myself, it is only a matter of opinion, it would have paid to have closed that job for so many hours a week in order to overhaul the machinery in the shop.

Q-- Was the machinery not kept in the highest working order all the time?      A-- It was kept in as good working order





order as possible under the conditions, but just imagine what the machinery would be like running seven days a week, and twenty-four hours every day. I think it was something like <sup>half</sup> 3 hours it was closed down, I don't remember exactly, it would not be much more than that, that would be an hour and a half in twenty-four hours, and you can imagine how machinery will deteriorate under those conditions: I don't see how they could be any better than they were.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to ask any questions, Mr. Acres?

MR. ACRES: Yes.

Q-- Mr. McDonald, what was your first job when you came to this country? A-- I was a mechanic in the Grand Trunk Railway shops.

Q-- Where was this? A-- At Stratford.

Q-- How long were you there? A-- I was there 6 months

Q-- What was the next job? A-- The next job I got was in Collingwood, in the shipyards.

Q-- How long were you there? A-- Six months.

Q-- What was your next job? A-- I went to Port Colborne, during the construction of Robinson Bros' plant.

Q-- How long were you there. A-- For twelve months.

Q-- What was your next job? A-- From there I went to Welland on the canal, as designing engineer.

Q-- How long were you there? A-- Until the work closed down from 1911 to 1916.

Q-- Where did you go then? A-- I went to the Canadian Aeroplanes, and the Wilson Munitions, both.

Q-- How long were you with the Canadian Aeroplanes?

A-- Until the war closed, it was 1919 before the plant closed, and I did not get the Wilson Munitions business wound up until the end of 1919.

Q-- You were about three years at both those places?



A-- No, I was in both places at one time.

Q-- How long was it? A-- From 1916 to 1919.

Q-- Then where did you go? A-- I went to the Electric Steel & Metals.

Q-- How long were you there? A-- Until 1920, when the place closed.

Q-- How long was that? A-- Approximately one year. Since then I have been more or less doing consulting work.

Q-- Did you ever work for Dillon at Welland?

A-- No, I never worked for Dillon in my life.

Q-- Does he know anything about you? A-- All I know is that he is with the Crucible Steel.

Q-- You never worked for him? A-- No.

Q-- You dont think he knows anything about you?

A-- No, he has met me at an odd time, that is about all.

Q-- Did you ever work at the shipyard at Welland?

A-- No, although I know the men because they worked on the canal with me when I started on the ship canal.

Q-- When did you start on the Hydro? A-- I cant give you that date, around April or May.

Q-- April 4th, 1921? A-- I cant say for certain.

Q-- Why did you leave these jobs? A-- I left because I was making better progress.

Q-- You left of your own accord, all those jobs.

A-- I left all those jobs of my own accord.

Q-- You are willing to take your oath on that?

A-- I am willing to take my oath on that.

Q-- What happened after you were appointed on the job, on April 4th, 1921; what was your position before you came to the Hydro in April? A-- I was doing nothing.

Q-- What was your job after you were employed?

A-- Shift foreman.

Q-- Did you have any other job on the work, except as





shift foreman? A-- No.

Q-- What happened about the 6th of July?

A-- You mean when I was put out of here? Oh, yes, I was put out of the Hydro, you knew that.

Q-- Were you still shift foreman when you were discharged?

A-- No, they were supposed to have cleaned away the shift, and I was made a mechanic.

Q-- You were put on a machine? A-- No, I was put on a bench.

Q-- How long were you on the bench? A-- I would not like to say, three or four days, probably a week.

Q-- Then, did you leave? A-- No, I was discharged, I guarantee it was not for the company's sake either.

Q-- Did you tell anybody else besides Mr. Richmond himself, when you were fired, that you were going to see that Richmond lost his job. A-- I didn't say that to anyone, I said I was going to try to get back my job. I was anxious to keep my own job, because there was nothing doing.

Q-- Did you confide in anybody as to the way the job was run? Did you talk to any other people like you talked to Mr. Buck? A-- I don't know that very much was said to Mr. Buck, I might have said a few things.

Q-- You don't remember a talk you had with Mr. Buck, when he told you to mind your own business. A-- I say he did not say anything of the kind.

Q-- I just wanted to know whether there was anybody else around the country, while you were still employed by the Commission, <sup>you were</sup> telling what you thought of this job, and of Mr. Richmond? A-- No, I did not, I wanted back my job, because there was very little doing, I am quite willing to admit that.

Q-- It was never intimated to you that the reason you did continually travel around in Ontario was because you were a



trouble maker?           A-- I never was a trouble maker.

Q-- Well, of course, we know about that ourselves.

A-- You can spit it out now.

Q-- We have been accustomed to trouble makers on this job, that has been our difficulty for several years. But that was not the real reason you were discharged here, it was for rank incompetence.           A--That is your opinion.

Q-- It was a case of concrete from the neck up.

A-- I think my past history as far as competence is concerned will stand.

Q-- We can give some information about that, my language was well considered.           A-- Give the information, and support it, you should not insinuate without going through with it.

THE CHAIRMAN:       Mr. Acres, what information have you that this man was discharged from his other jobs?

MR. ACRES:           It is not information I care to disclose in public just now.       I shall give it to you properly.

THE CHAIRMAN:       You should not make the statement then.

MR. ACRES:           I can do it in time, not at the present moment.       I was given to understand that Mr. McDonald would be more or less frank in the witness box, but he has not been.

THE CHAIRMAN:       He has been apparently frank; he has told us how long he was at these different places, and that he left in order to better himself.   He stayed a long time, for five years in one case, and three years in another.

WITNESS:            I refer you to R.W. Leonard, if you want to know.

THE CHAIRMAN:       R.W. Leonard, of St. Catharines?

A-- I leave my character in his hands.       You can also





go to Alexander Grant of the Welland Ship Canal, or W.H. Sutherland, of the Welland Ship Canal, and I will leave my case in their hands as far as I am concerned.

Q-- Is that where you worked?      A-- Yes, I was with Col. Leonard in connection with the Electric Steel & Metals, and also the Wilson Munitions.

THE CHAIRMAN:      I think, Mr. Acres, you should tell us what you have to base that statement on; it is hardly fair to Mr. McDonald.

MR. ACRES:      I will do that in the afternoon.

MR. POLE:      May I ask Mr. McDonald some questions?

THE CHAIRMAN:      Yes.

MR. POPE:      You were foreman in the shop for the Hydro?      A-- Yes.

Q-- You saw irregularities going on in the shop, as you have described to this Board?      A-- Just exactly what I saw.

Q-- What steps did you take to bring that to the attention of the authorities of the Hydro?      A-- Do you mean to say I could go?

Q-- I am asking you the question.      You were foreman?

A-- Yes.

Q-- And were there to protect the interests of the Hydro?

A-- Yes.

Q-- You saw these irregularities, one man in your own gang being under the influence of liquor?      A-- Yes.

Q-- Who did you report that to?      A-- I reported it to the night man.

Q-- Who would that be?      A-- He told me to put him out.

Q-- Who was the night man?      A-- I cant give you his name, I cant remember it, he was the General Night Foreman.

Q-- You were there for two or three months, and would natarally know who the night foreman was.      A-- Herold.





Q-- What did you do to the man in your own crew?

A-- I put him out.

Q-- Did he come back to work for you again?

A-- The next shift.

Q-- You made no objection to that? A-- No.

Q-- You do object to other people who are intoxicated, being around, but not in your own crew? A-- I had nothing to do with a man after he left the place.

Q-- I don't agree with you there, sir. If you were the foreman and a man came to work when intoxicated, I think you had a duty to perform to take care of that man. When he return<sup>ed</sup>, did you make any comment? A-- I did nothing in the way of reporting, it was not my place, I simply tried to make the best I could of it.

Q-- It was pretty difficult to get men at that particular time. A-- I don't think so, men were coming around every day.

Q-- Were men plentiful in 1921? A-- There was no dearth of men while I was there.

Q-- Did you make any report at all in reference to condition you found around your work, to anybody? A-- No.

Q-- Did you make a written report to anybody? A-- No.

Q-- You say you spoke to the night foreman? A-- About that particular case, he was there at the time, and he knew.

Q-- You say you saw evidence of drunkenness on many occasions? A-- Yes.

Q-- More than you ever saw on similar work. A-- Yes.

Q-- In work such as this? A-- Yes.

Q-- Did you report any of these instances of dissipation?

A-- I did not.

Q-- Why, because it was not my place.

Q-- As foreman? A-- As foreman I only had to do with my own shift.



Q-- Do you think, as foreman, you had nothing to do with it? Why are you here now? A-- I have been asked; if I had been asked by the Hydro if there was anything going on, I would have said yes.

Q-- I am treating you as the foreman in charge of the work.

A-- In charge of one shift.

Q-- One of the executive officers of the work, and one who should be interested in having discipline.

A-- In his own shift.

Q-- Do you mean to tell me you confined all your interest to your own shift? A-- My own shift is all I know about.

Q-- You have no interest in any other shift?

A-- I couldn't go into that.

Q-- You say you know nothing of any other shift?

A-- I only know what happened when I went on the shift.

Q-- You saw other men, on other shifts, under the influence of liquor? A-- I did see that one.

Q-- Did you say anything to their foreman?

A-- The foreman knew of the conditions.

Q-- In each case? A-- I am only speaking of the one occasion.

Q-- You told the Chairman of this Commission that it was fairly general, more than you had ever seen on any other work. A-- Yes.

Q-- Now you say it is one case? A-- That case I spoke of. There were other cases.

Q-- Did you report that to the foreman? A-- No, I did not report it to the foreman, he knew.

Q-- When did you first tell what you have told here today?

A-- I can only say that I was asked if I had anything to say.

Q-- When was the first you told of this complaint you are making here?





THE CHAIRMAN: Tell us, as near as you can?

MR. POPE: When, and to whom?

A-- To this gentleman here.

Q-- What gentleman, Mr. Wegenast? A-- Yes.

Q-- Where and when? A-- In Welland.

THE CHAIRMAN: About three weeks ago, Mr. Wegenast says.

WITNESS: It must be at least seven weeks.

MR. POPE: Who did you tell before that, how did Mr. Wegenast get track of you? A-- He knew I was on the Hydro.

Q-- There were 8,000 men on the Hydro? A-- He knew I was on the Hydro, from advice he got in Welland, from Mr. Davis.

Q-- Davis is the one who told what you would likely say?

THE CHAIRMAN: He would not know what Davis said.

MR. POPE: How did he know you would have a complaint? A-- He was in my shift.

Q-- I am speaking of Mr. Wegenast. A-- Mr. Wegenast would not.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wegenast says that Davis told him about it.

MR. POPE: Where were you brought from, from Detroit? A-- Yes, from Detroit.

Q-- What are you doing in Detroit? A-- Designing machinery.

Q-- What sort of machinery? A-- Special machinery to make glass lenses.

Q-- Of your own designing? A-- I am designing machines for a company, for the Deglarescope Company.

Q-- Do you still think, as foreman of one shift of men in that machine shop, that you did your whole duty to yourself and to the Commission when you neglected to report any of



the irregularities you have told us about, to some person in the Hydro service? A-- If there had been any doubt in my mind that these irregularities were not known, then there might have been some call for me to deal with another man's shift, but under the conditions, I think I did perfectly right.

Q-- You are quite satisfied? A-- I am quite satisfied.

Q-- You think that was your whole duty?

A-- Under the conditions.

Q-- There was a general foreman over the whole of you, did you ever mention it to him at all. A-- It was well known.

Q-- Never mind! A-- I didn't, unless in my own gang.

Q-- Did you report your own particular case?

A-- I reported to the general foreman, Mr. Elwood.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to ask anything further, Mr. Pope?

MR. POPE: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to ask any questions, Mr. Gaby?

MR. GABY: No.

MR. ACRES: I would like you to hear Mr. Richmond.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, and any one else you would like to call.

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FRED RICHMOND.

THE CHAIRMAN: What was your position on the Hydro?

A-- General Foreman.

Q-- Where? A-- In the machine shop.

Q-- That is the repair shop. Did you hear what Mr. McDonald said about conditions there? A-- Yes, I did.

Q-- What have you to say about that. A-- I might call him a liar.



Q-- What particular statement did he make that is untrue?

A-- He made the statement that he saw me drunk there, and I don't think he did.

Q-- He is the second man who said that? A-- Yes. What did the other fellow say?

Q-- Where you drunk on the job? A-- Not that anybody knows of.

Q-- Were you, as a matter of fact? A-- No.

Q-- Whether they knew it or not? A-- I was not drunk that I know of.

Q-- You aren't quite sure about it. A-- Yes, I am quite sure about it.

Q-- That you never were drunk there? A-- Yes.

Q-- At any other time? A-- No.

Q-- You never were drunk in your life? A-- I would not say I was never drunk in my life.

Q-- Were you drunk while acting as General Foreman there?

A-- No.

Q-- Either on the job, or off it? A-- It is part of my own business when off.

Q-- During the time when you were off the job, as General Foreman, were you drunk at times? A-- I decline to answer that question.

Q-- Why do you decline to answer the question?

A-- It is my own privilege when I am off the job to do as I please.

Q-- It is a matter of concern, whether the General Foreman of the machine shop got drunk. If I had a man working for me, and he got drunk continuously, and had a reputation for drinking when off the job, I think that would be a good reason why I should not keep him in my employ. A-- If I worked satisfactorily?

Q-- Your work would not be satisfactory, because your





example would not be good. A-- I dont believe I set a bad example to anybody.

Q-- You dont wish to answer as to whether you were drunk, while you were General Foreman, on or off the job?

MR. ACRES: The point is, if Mr. Richmond had a reputation for being drunk on or off the job.

THE CHAIRMAN: He declines to answer the question.

MR. ACRES: That lies in his own discretion. There is no proof that Mr. Richmond had the reputation for being drunk when off the job.

THE CHAIRMAN: He may have been drunk some times when off the job.

WITNESS: I have not any reputation floating around the country for it that I know of.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have the right to make you answer the question, whether you want to or not, but I dont think it is worth while.

Q-- What about drunkenness in the machine shop?

A-- I never saw any around there.

Q-- Did you see any men under the influence, there?

A-- No, sir.

Q-- You heard what Mr. McDonald about reporting a man from his gang for being drunk? A-- He did not report him to me.

Q-- He reported him to a man named Elwood. When a man was drunk on the job, was he discharged?

A-- Very apt to be.

Q-- Was he? A-- I discharged several, myself.

Q-- You did see some who were drunk on the job?

A-- They were not on the job drunk, because they did not get a chance to get on the job drunk.

Q-- They did not have a chance to get on the job? A-- No.

Q-- How did you come to deter them? A-- Caught them



~~before they got there.~~

Q-- You thought it alright to have one rule in one place, and another rule in another place, if you got drunk on the job, you still stayed, but if one of the men was found drunk on the job, he was sent away?      A-- I did not say I got drunk on the job.

Q-- You refused to answer the question, so we were just left to draw our own inference.      A-- I deny that too.

MR. ACRES:      I think what Mr. Richmond means is that if the man reported for work when under the influence of liquor, he was discharged before he checked in.

THE CHAIRMAN:      We will not question the witness any more until he is sworn.

WITNESS:      I am here by request, not by subpoena.

THE CHAIRMAN:      Come here.      You swear that the evidence you give before this Commission on the matters which are the subject of this investigation, shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God.

(The witness takes the oath).

Q-- What you say now is that you never saw any of the men in the machine shop, who were drunk on the job.

A-- No, sir, I never saw any of them drunk around the shop.

Q-- You saw no man under the influence of liquor around the shop.      A-- I cant tell you that.

Q-- No one apparently under the influence of liquor?

A-- No.

Q-- You must have had a sort of Sunday school class.

A-- They were a pretty good sort of men.

Q-- The man who testified yesterday, did he say that Mr. Richmond was drunk at the machine shop, Mr. Pope?

MR. POPE:      Off duty.

THE CHAIRMAN:      Where was it?

MR. ACRES:      He said he had seen him taking liquor.





THE CHAIRMAN: I think he said he saw him drunk.

MR. ACRES: My recollection is, that he made a distinction, and said he had seen him taking liquor.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Richmond, did you ever spend any part of the nights asleep in the office? A-- I guess I have, sir.

Q-- Were you under the influence of liquor then?

A-- Not that I know of.

Q-- You aren't sure about it? Remember, you are under oath, and be careful of the answers you make. You dont know whether you were or not?

A-- No, I dont.

Q-- Are you working for the Hydro now? A-- No, sir.

Q-- How long is it since you left? A-- Last May.

Q-- Where are you working? A-- With the Niagara Falls Power Company.

Q-- Did you ever see any liquor on the job at the machine shop? A-- No, I have not seen any liquor there.

Q-- You haven't? A-- No.

Q-- You tell us there was not any there?

A-- There was not any liquor around there.

Q-- Did you hear what was said about the lack of co-ordination in the machine shop? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- What do you say about that? A-- All I have got to say is, it is wrong.

Q-- You say that the lack of co-ordination was wrong, or was there lack of co-ordination? A-- Their statement is wrong.

Q-- What do you say about general conditions?

A-- The general conditions in the shop were the best of any construction job that ever existed, for the amount of work that went in.

Q-- Did you ever take up the matter of the work with the



foreman?           A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- In what way?

A-- We were told what to do, and if there was no duplicate part, the old part was furnished so as to make a new one, and they were furnished with a sketch. We had sketches of most parts. We had to repair the machines under the conditions as we found them.

THE CHAIRMAN:     Mr. Acres, you wish to ask some question?

MR. ACRES:           To what extent did you exercise supervision over the work, in the matter of the time you put in around the shop, when it was necessary?

A-- I would instruct how the work was to be carried on.

Q-- Was there any definite limitation on the duration of your hours in the shop?           A-- No.

Q-- Did you on any occasion work for eighteen, and probably twenty-four hours on urgent work?           A-- Yes, sir, more than once.

Q-- This had nothing much to do with Mr. Richmond's evidence, Mr. Gregory, but Mr. Richmond can answer this from his own knowledge, whether any of the other General Foremen were working continuously for a long period of hours, where it was necessary to exercise continuous supervision over a rush job?           A-- No, not necessary.

Q-- I had particular reference to the blacksmith?

A-- Oh, yes, the blacksmith was there day and night a number of times.

Q-- Exercising continuous supervision over particularly important and urgent work?           A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- It was your continuous policy to ignore regular working hours under stressed circumstances?           A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- With regard to this particular instance mentioned by Mr. McDonald, as to the crank shaft episode, will you explain



to the Commission what the circumstances were?

A-- The duplicate of the crank shaft to be repaired was laid on the floor, as the shaft they were to work on had to be exactly right, and there was no chance of any miscarriage of information. The false centres were made, and shrunk on the ends of the shaft, and set up over one of the cranks, and when that end of the crank was finished, the false centres were taken off, and it was set up over the other crank. At all times, the old shaft was right in front of the machine where the work was being done, so they could check up at any minute. The men at the machine should have been capable, and they are capable, of checking the work, as machinists.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: Any mechanic who was capable of turning that crank shaft, should have been capable of putting on the false centres intelligently, and handling the thing properly?

A-- Yes, sir, any man supposed to be a machinist, who had served his time at the trade.

Q-- You would not expect to furnish a drawing of that crank shaft in order to do that work?

A-- No, they had the old shaft there to go by. There was nothing wrong with the shaft, only it had a crack.

Q-- What size was this shaft?

A-- If I remember right, somewhere in the neighborhood of five feet, sixteen inches.

Q-- Did you make these blanks yourself?

A-- Yes, right in the shop.

Q-- The blacksmith made them?

A-- Yes, they were purposely kept.

Q-- What I cant understand in connection with this whole matter is, the stories we had about drinking on the premises, not only in the machine shop, but all up and down the line, and I think there has been a statement by the Chairman of the Hydro Electric Power Commission that it had some effect on the costs; how is it you didn't see any of that?





A-- I didn't look for it.

Q-- I have never seen a job myself, of that kind, where there was no liquor.

A-- I never did either.

Q-- I am surprised at conditions here being so very good.

THE CHAIRMAN: You say you saw no evidence of drunkenness in your shop, and no liquor around there.

A-- I would be working out on the canal, and they might have some for all I know.

Q-- I am speaking of your repair shop.

A-- I never saw anything around there in the shape of liquor.

MR. ACRES: I think Mr. Richmond stated that men had frequently reported for work when under the influence of liquor?

A-- Yes.

Q-- And on several occasions you discharged men who reported in that condition. Mr. Richmond made a distinction between finding men drunk on the ground, and when they returned for work, in other words, Mr. Richmond was on the job when they reported for work, and he observed these men under the influence of liquor, and told them to go, he turned them out, and told them not to come back?

A-- Yes.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Were you paid by the month?

A-- By the month.

MR. ACRES: What particular concern had McDonald with regard to this crank shaft, did you give him any instructions in connection with it?

A-- Not any more than any other.

Q-- What did you expect him to do in connection with it?

A-- Turn it up.

Q-- What happened?

A-- The crank shaft got turned.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: It was alright, was it?

A-- When the crank shaft was finished, it was alright.

MR. ACRES:- Why did you let McDonald out?

A-- For not getting the work out of the shop.



COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: Was McDonald a mechanic? A-- He might have been, I couldn't see it, in that class of work.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you ever come in contact with any bootleggers? A-- No, sir.

Q-- Did you ever do any business in that line yourself?

A-- No, sir.

Q-- Did you ever furnish any liquor to any of the men?

A-- No, sir.

Q-- Are you sure? A-- Yes.

Q-- Did you have any business with any of the men who did furnish some liquor? A-- No, sir.

Q-- Was there a man there named Madonna? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- What was his position? A-- He was a blacksmith.

Q-- What pay did he get? A-- I can't tell you, I don't know.

Q-- You don't know? A-- No, I don't know.

Q-- He was in your shop, all this time? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- You don't know what pay he got? A-- I had nothing to do with that whatever.

Q-- Did he ever get any extra pay? A-- I don't know.

Q-- Who would have to do with that? A-- I believe the Master Mechanic, or the superintendent.

Q-- Who would report Madonna's time? A-- The time-keeper.

Q-- That information didn't come from you at all?

A-- No, sir.

Q-- You are sure of that? A-- I had nothing to do with Mr. Madonna's time whatever.

Q-- You know nothing about it? A-- No.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acres, are there any other questions you want to ask?

MR. ACRES: Can you relate any circumstances which





occurred when you discharged McDonald? A-- I laid him off, and when I laid off the shift there, he told me, at the time I laid him off, that if he didn't work there, I wouldn't, and I told him at that date, if he had any grievance I would go across to the office and have it out right there and then.

Q-- Did he take you up? A-- No, he didn't.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pope, do you wish to ask any questions?

MR. POPE: No.

MR. ACRES: In other words, Mr. Richmond, you considered that McDonald was incompetent for the work he was hired to do? A-- Yes.

Q-- And in order to give him a chance, you put him to work as a benchman? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- What happened, when you gave him a chance to work as a benchman? A-- He was very slow at that class of work, and not capable of handling the job as a machinist.

THE CHAIRMAN: How long was McDonald a shift foreman there? A-- I can't say, somewhere around 3 months.

Q-- Did you report him during that time for incompetence?

A-- Not necessary.

Q-- You didn't? A-- No, sir.

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MR. ACRES: I would like to call Mr. Buck.

MR. BUCK:

THE CHAIRMAN: You heard the evidence given this morning? A-- I have heard the most of it.

Q-- What can you tell us about it? A-- I knew Mr. McDonald previously.

Q-- Previous to his coming to work for you? A-- Yes, just in a personal way.

Q-- Was it you who engaged him? A-- No, sir.



Q-- Did he come to you, while on the job, and make a complaint? A-- Yes, he told me that the whole job was run with drunken bums. I didn't believe it myself, I had been on that job a good many times a month, and I saw nothing of that kind, and I told him, "Mac, if you think things aren't run right there, take it up with Mr. Angell." He came to me twice while on the job; and I told him the same thing again. I said to him, "If you can't get satisfaction with Mr. Angell, there is still another channel, you can go to Mr. Acres, and if there is any cleaning up necessary, I am quite sure it will be done."

Q-- Was it customary for a foreman to report to Mr. Angell, or Mr. Acres? A-- No, I wouldn't do it; that is what he wanted to do; I would report to my immediate superior.

Q-- You suggested that? A-- Yes, because the grievance he had was against his superiors, and I said, "If conditions are such as you say they are, you should report the matter to Mr. Angell."

Q-- Should not the report to you have been sufficient?

A-- No, sir, I had nothing whatever to do with the shop.

Q-- After he had reported that, did you have any investigation made, as to what he had said? A-- No, sir, I didn't believe the conditions were such as he reported, and he had that privilege of reporting to the General Superintendent. I had nothing to do with the machine shop, although, if conditions were such as he reported, I should have taken it up with the foreman.

Q-- When a foreman makes a statement like that, should you not refer him to the man who could deal with it?

A-- I considered there was nothing in his statements.

Q-- You say you didn't know.

MR. HOGG: This man was not responsible, in





any sense of the word, to Mr. Buck.

THE CHAIRMAN: I should think that Mr. Buck would have had it brought to the attention of the man to whom he was responsible, and I suppose it was Mr. Richmond directly.

WITNESS: It was Mr. Richmond, the man he was complaining about.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: How about Mr. Reid, was he not the Master Mechanic? A-- Yes.

Q-- We haven't heard his name mentioned at all?

MR. ACRES: The point I wish to bring out is that McDonald did a lot of talking to men on the job to whom he had no business to talk.

THE CHAIRMAN: Some men stand about talking too much, and some no doubt talk too little.

MR. ACRES: My complaint is that Mr. McDonald talked too much, and knew too little, that is really why he went off the job.

THE CHAIRMAN: Was it rather because of the talking, than inefficiency?

MR. ACRES: Not necessarily, no. I said, when examining McDonald, that talking was common on the job, but his incompetence was the real cause of his discharge, he was doing improper talking, at the same time.

THE CHAIRMAN: If these conditions prevailed, as McDonald has described, in some detail, and Mr. Richmond's statement would seem to bear him out, to some extent, why should he not talk about it?

MR. ACRES: I do not think that Richmond bears that out. As a matter of fact, there are proper channels for that kind of talk to follow.

THE CHAIRMAN: It does not seem to have got beyond Mr. Richmond, he heard all about this talk.

MR. ACRES: The point I tried to bring out





was that McDonald talked freely, uselessly, and promiscuously, and did not take the right channel to get action; he was simply giving vent to his own feelings, and making trouble.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you hear about it, Mr. Acres?

MR. ACRES: No, sir, I didn't.

THE CHAIRMAN: When McDonald talked so much, wouldn't it be a ground for investigating to see if his statements were true or not?

MR. ACRES: The point is, he didn't talk about it to the people who were competent to make an investigation. Mr. Buck had nothing to do with it at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: McDonald talked about it to people who were closely in touch with conditions, and he spoke to Mr. Buck about it.

MR. ACRES: Mr. Buck gave him proper advice, but he didn't follow it.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is it, Mr. McDonald, do you wish to say something?

MR. McDONALD: I would like to say that Mr. Buck and I were friends before I ever came down here. I am sure I was not so loquacious as he says, I did not go there with the idea of making complaints, if I said anything it was more or less as one friend to another. I did not expect that Mr. Buck would do my errand, I could do my own errand; I simply told it to Mr. Buck -- you will say many things to a friend in a quiet way.

THE CHAIRMAN: That will not spread abroad.

MR. McDONALD: Exactly.

MR. GABY: In reference to this, I can probably answer, not only in connection with the statement made here, but it is a matter of record that information was given to the Commission, with regard to talk such as



this, and our own men did some special investigating, they were sent down to this job, unknown to the men, to obtain information, whether the statements were true or not, and if any truth was found, it was taken up with the head of the department for attention, and advice as to what would be done.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Richmond would be at the head of that machine shop.

MR. GABY: No, any complaint that came in, of hearsay evidence as to drunkenness and things of that kind, on the job, were investigated by a special inspector, and a report was made to the Commission as to what conditions were.

THE CHAIRMAN: You say they were referred to the head of the department?

MR. GABY: No, they were referred to the Commission direct, to myself direct.

THE CHAIRMAN: Reports of the inspectors?

A-- Yes.

Q-- As to whether the reports were justified or not?

A-- I can say that the report of the inspector did not justify the statement as to drunkenness in the machine shop, and on the job.

Q-- Did your inspector think he was sent to inspect the machine shop, or the men? A-- There were a number of men engaged as inspectors, who were unknown to the men, they were appointed for that purpose.

Q-- Were their reports filed? A-- I do not think they are.

Q-- Where are they? A-- Some were destroyed, I don't think we have all the reports of those men.

Q-- Have you any of them? A-- We may have, yes. These matters are taken up from time to time, with regard to hear-





say statements as to bad character, and they were investigated by the Commission, and if it was found that there was anything in the statements at all, they were referred to the Department for attention.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pope, you will see that we get these reports, which were made by your inspectors, particularly with regard to conditions in the machine shop.

MR. POPE: The majority of the reports were not kept, I don't know what we have got.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those reports that were not destroyed, Mr. Pope, where would they be now?

MR. POPE: Probably on file in the office.

THE CHAIRMAN: In the office of your Commission, in Toronto?

MR. POPE: I think so.

THE CHAIRMAN: They would not be over here?

MR. POPE: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: You would oblige us if you would look these reports up, and let us have them. Would those reports be in your files, Mr. Acres, or in the general files?

MR. GABY: Whatever reports there are, would be in the general files, or in my files, I do not carry the official files in connection with the Commission, they are put in the general files.

THE CHAIRMAN: These reports would be important.

MR. ACRES: Copies of the reports are referred to me for action where necessary, and I destroyed them as soon as they were investigated.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything more, Mr. Buck?

MR. BUCK: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions you would like to ask, Mr. Buck?



MR. McDONALD: No, nothing more.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else you wanted to call on this branch of the case, Mr. Acres?

MR. ACRES: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is the best time.

MR. ACRES: We have another shift foreman who had a shift similar to McDonald's;. I have sent out for him.

MR. POPE: I might say, Mr. Chairman, with reference to the insurance, I understand the Westinghouse men who were in charge of that work, and would know of the conditions, are still here.

THE CHAIRMAN: I was just quoting from the report. If you like to bring them up, all right.

MR. POPE: It was just a question as to whether you wanted any more information on that line.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think it has been pretty well covered, myself.

MR. POPE: I just wanted to say that the same men are still here.

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GEORGE J. HOWARD:

MR. ACRES: Mr. Howard had a similar position to Mr. McDonald.

THE CHAIRMAN: You were shift foreman?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- You did not hear the evidence that has been given about drunkenness, and drinking? A-- No, sir.

Q-- And the condition of the men? A-- No, sir.

Q-- What did you notice about that, if anything?

A-- I can't say I ever seen any, or much, there might have been a few men come in who had liquor in them, but I would send them home.



Q-- It was quite noticeable, sometimes? A-- Maybe around pay day, sometimes.

Q-- What would you do with men when they got under the influence of liquor? A-- Send them home.

Q-- Until they sobered up? A-- Yes, sir, and sometimes would discharge them.

Q-- Sometimes they couldn't work? A-- Yes.

Q-- What percentage of men did you discharge? A-- Maybe three or four, I have discharged as many as five and six in a day, not all for being drunk.

Q-- I am just speaking of drunkenness. A-- I wouldn't say that; I discharged about two.

Q-- Two a day would that be the highest? A-- I wouldn't say two a day, two in my whole time.

Q-- What about the others who were under the influence?

A-- Sent them home.

Q-- And didn't discharge them? A-- No, sir.

Q-- You gave them a chance to sober up? A-- I gave them a chance to sober up.

Q-- How long would they stay off? A-- I can't say that, some a day or half a day, maybe two days, depending where the man went, and whether we needed him or not.

Q-- Sometimes you would do that? A-- Sometimes we would do that.

Q-- The man might stay off a little longer? A-- If he stayed off too long, I didn't take him back.

Q-- Were there many you didn't take back? A-- I can't tell you how many, it would be quite a lot, 8 or 9.

Q-- What proportion of those you turned off, did you discharge altogether? A-- I can't tell you.

Q-- 5 or 10 percent? A-- I can't tell you that exactly.

Q-- Where did they get this liquor from?





~~Principally~~ where I would find it, that would be over the river.

Q-- On the American side?      A-- On the American side.

Q-- In most cases they got it over the river, but they got it on this side too?      A-- I can't say that.

Q-- Would the men sometimes bring the liquor on the job with them?      A-- I never saw them bring any on the job.

Q-- Except inside?      A-- Except inside, yes.

Q-- Did they bring some along in their pockets?

A-- I never seen one all the time I was there.

Q-- Did you see liquor on trucks at all?      A-- No, sir, I didn't.

Q-- How many men were on your gang?      A-- About 77.

Q-- Would most of those men get under the influence, at one time or another?      A-- Oh, no.

Q-- How were you yourself?      A-- I was sober, I may have taken some there in me.

Q-- You were sober?      A-- I was never under the influence of liquor.

Q-- You may been just a little exhilarated?      A-- No, I don't think I was even that.

Q-- We have been told by people here that your shift had rather a high reputation for drinking liquor, do you think your shift excelled in that beyond other shifts?

A-- No, sir, I don't.

Q-- You think your shift was as sober as any of the others?      A-- Absolutely.

Q-- You think your shift would be a fair average of the men in the shop?      A-- More so.

Q-- Let us hear about what some of the others brought on, we have heard about what your men brought on, and if the others brought on more, we would like to know it.

A-- I am not responsible for other shifts.



Q-- But you had your eyes open? When you say that others indulged more than your men, you must have some reason for coming to that conclusion? A-- I didn't say so.

Q-- I thought you said your men were better than the others in that way? A-- I can't say whether they were or not.

Q-- They were just as good as the others? A-- Just as good.

Q-- Did the other fellows get theirs across the river?

A-- I can't tell you.

Q-- Where did Mr. Richmond get his liquor? A-- I can't say.

Q-- What kind of liquor did Mr. Richmond take? A-- I can't tell.

Q-- Was he slightly exhilarated sometimes? A-- Not that I ever seen.

Q-- You know nothing of it? A-- No, not that I can tell.

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think there is anything more.

MR. ACRES: What have you to say about McDonald, not as a matter of personalities, but strictly a matter of judging his ability to do the class of work required? A-- I wouldn't think much of it, not the class of work there is to do there, he might be a good man to sit in an office and hand out blue prints, or something of that description, he might be a first-class man away up on a job like yours.

THE CHAIRMAN: You would put him on a job like Mr. Acres has? A-- I would judge so, I would put him up in that locality, not down around the machine shop.

MR. ACRES: I suppose the further away he would get, the better it would be.





MR. ACRES: I can reinforce Mr. Howard's argument, and show that McDonald would have made a poor job of the crank shaft.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: You place McDonald in the white collar job? A-- Yes

WITNESS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we have located Mr. McDonald at last. Is there anything more?

MR. ACRES: I think not. I just want to point out it was a pure matter of judgment, it was not animus, or spite, that caused us to release McDonald.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is quite clear that there was some poor judgment shown in putting him on the bench, he should have gone in the other direction.

MR. ACRES: He should have been made Chief-engineer, apparently.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is that all, Mr. Acres?

MR. ACRES: I think that is all, sir.

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T. R. STOKES.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Stokes, I understand you are Township Clerk of the Township of Stamford? A-- Yes.

Q-- What have you to say to us? A-- We think that

Hydro should be assessed on their property in the Township of Stamford at the same value as the prevailing value of the property in the Township.

Q-- There are special provisions in the law which say that Hydro must not be assessed in that way at all, but are to be assessed on the value of their land?

A-- That is very unfair.

Q-- That is the law? A-- Laws are always unfair.

Q-- Not always? A-- Until you right them.



Q-- Have you gone about it in that way, have you tried to have the law changed? A-- Yes, we petitioned our Member to introduce a Bill taxing all public utilities, and it was withdrawn by pressure, I believe, brought by the Hydro.

HON. MR. CARMICHAEL: No, not exactly, a Bill such as that, if presented by a private Member, would be out of order, the Speaker so ruled; it has to do with public revenues.

THE CHAIRMAN: A Bill affecting the revenue of the Hydro?

WITNESS: That was another Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: What you want is to have the law changed to apply particularly to the Township of Stamford?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- It is not customary to make the Statute apply to a particular Township, but generally over the Province?

A-- Our situation here is unique in the whole Province of Ontario; we have an assessment of \$3,700,000., and have exemptions of over \$100,000,000.

Q-- It is a matter of degrees; the principle is the same, because Hydro carries on operations at different places;

although there is no place where the amount would be so great as here, there would be many places where taxes would be levied which are not now leviable under the law.

A-- It should be our principal revenue producer here.

Q-- Do you think so? A-- Yes.

Q-- What did Hydro spend on the power plant, and how does it increase the expenditure of the Township of Stamford? A-- It increased the population.

Q-- That is something new? A-- That increases municipal expenditure.

Q-- There are a number of school children in consequence



~~of Hydro being here?~~ A-- And it raises our school rates.

Q-- These people who increased the population, have houses of their own, and pay taxes. I am speaking of the power plant that does not increase the population in itself. A-- There are men working in it.

Q-- And they pay taxes on their houses? A-- No county can exist with just residential taxes to rely on, it would be a very poor county.

Q-- Lots of them do; the municipality I live in exists that way, there is nothing but farm houses, and things of that kind. A-- You are taxing all the property you have.

Q-- Yes. A-- We are exempting \$100,000,000. here.

Q-- What do you spend, what do they cost you, how do they increase the school rates? A-- Because of the increased population.

Q-- You have to spend money for fire protection?

A-- Fire and police protection.

Q-- Do you have to spend money for fire protection for these companies? A-- We installed a water system that cost about \$250,000.

Q-- For these plants here? A-- No, not for them specially.

Q-- If they weren't there at all, would the taxes for this township be any lower than they are now? A-- Yes, certainly.

Q-- Tell us specifically what taxes you spend on these power plants? A-- We have to maintain -- first of all, we had to divert the roads, and construct new roads.

Q-- Did the new roads have to be constructed to give access to the Hydro property?





MR. POPE: Hydro paid \$20,000. for so much land.  
and gave a lot of stone.

WITNESS: Some stone.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who built the roads?

A-- The township.

Q-- At its own expense? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- And does Hydro contribute nothing towards the roads?

A-- They contributed \$20,000, for roads and land.

Q-- \$20,000 is quite a contribution.

A-- Not a flea bite, in Stamford.

Q-- Isn't \$20,000 a flea bite with regard to the roads used  
in connection with this power plant? A-- No.

HON. MR. CARMICHAEL: I think there were road  
detours, necessitated by the building of the canal?

A-- Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: And the roads were built specially,  
speaking of the plants up in the Park, and do you contend  
that those roads would not have had to be constructed if it  
had not been for those plants? A-- All the detour roads.

Q-- They were built for these power plants?

A-- Three roads were closed, in the township, the  
Provincial Highway, County Roads, and the Suburban area.

Q-- Now, speaking of the canal, and the assessment of  
these power plants up in the Park. A-- They were built  
before Hydro came in.

Q-- These are the plants you want to tax?

A-- Yes, and some of the new ones, the transformer station.

Q-- That is where most of the assessment would come from?

A-- No, they have the transformer plant at Falls View,  
that is on our original assessment at \$1,000,000.

Q-- What do you want us to do? A-- We want you to  
recommend that public utilities should be assessed for taxes.

MR. POPE: I may say that for every diversion



we have made, Hydro has paid for it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does Hydro pay the whole cost of the road?

MR. POPE: Yes, in connection with our work there was heavy traffic, and, although we had a perfect right to use the public highway for a public purpose, they complained we had interfered with the road, and we gave them \$20,000 in cash and a quantity of stone to put on those roads, and they were put in better shape than they ever were, or ever would have been.

THE CHAIRMAN: They seem to have been public benefactors.

WITNESS: No, sir, not exactly, they are good fellows, pretty smooth, but as to the land in question, there were 9 acres included in the price of \$20,000 that we got, of land for a highway.

THE CHAIRMAN: That you had to buy?

A-- That they bought from the township.

Q-- And \$9,000 was the expense of buying the land?

A-- No, 9 acres of the township lands were closed up, and added to the Hydro Commission.

Q-- And a new road given for it?

A-- No, it is closed up entirely.

MR. GABY: These roads were closed, and all the diversions we have made were all made by agreement with the township, and approved by the Ontario Railway & Municipal Board, and have been dealt with in a proper manner.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does the Ontario Railway & Municipal Board fix the damage?

MR. POPE: Unless we agree.

THE CHAIRMAN: And if a new road is built, on their advice, who has to pay for it?

MR. GABY: We agreed with the township as to the diversions, we paid them in full, and in addition we gave





them a considerable amount of crushed stone, probably \$1,000 has been given to the township for certain roads, and certain roads were maintained in addition to the \$20,000 which we gave them.

THE CHAIRMAN: What would that be worth?

MR. POPE: I don't just remember the quantity, it was crushed stone we had.

MR. GIBBY: And another bill of \$8,000 on account of stone, was wiped off last year, in addition to the stone furnished to the municipality, for repairing those roads, and it was charged up in accordance with the previous understanding. Also, under certain negotiations, we had to build them wells, and provide a waterworks system. We came to an agreement as to the dry wells.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just tell the story in your own way.

WITNESS: We have been perfectly satisfied with the agreement, we have always arrived at a settlement with them.

MR. POPE: You put it all over the Hydro.

WITNESS: Every year, when the assessment papers are given to them, they appeal the assessment on these power plants in the township of Stamford, which they have objected to pay, for instance, the Ontario Power Company. I suppose there will be electrical development in Toronto this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: You see the properties on which you have counted for the collection of a large amount of taxes, all slipping away? A-- Yes.

Q-- You think, because it is under the control of the Hydro, they should not, in that way, become exempt from taxation?

A-- No, sir.

MR. POPE: Have you lost a dollar yet in taxes?

A-- No, but we have had to fight for every one -- and we don't want to have to do that. It is either appealed in Niagara Falls, or in Stamford.



THE CHAIRMAN: Is that Bill before the Legislature now?

A-- No, it was last year.

Q-- Has a Bill been introduced this year?

A-- I can't say if it has. Our intention depends on circumstances.

Q-- And if it is introduced, is it to apply only to the township of Stamford, or by way of a Bill dealing with taxation?

A-- We are looking after our own interests, and we think that other municipalities should look after theirs.

Q-- It is a Bill that just applies to yourselves? A-- Yes.

MR. POPE: The Power Act, granting fixed assessment, has not expired.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the fixed assessment agreement abrogated with respect to property owned by the Hydro?

MR. POPE: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you sure?

MR. POPE: Quite sure. When that Act expires, some other arrangement will have to be made.

THE CHAIRMAN: There has been no change in the law in respect to that Company?

MR. POPE: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: What about the Canadian Niagara Company?

WITNESS: That is an incorporated company by themselves.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does their agreement expire soon?

A-- At the end of this year.

Q-- You have the Canadian Niagara Company to fall back on.

A-- It is not fair that one company should pay all the taxes in the township.

Q-- Do you want one company to pay all the taxes in the township? A-- And compete with a private owned one.

Q-- Are you going to exempt them on that account?

A-- No, sir, we treat them all alike.





Q-- They will look after themselves.

A-- No doubt they will.

MR. POPE: As far as the township of Stamford is concerned, while we had a perfect right to exercise the judgment of the Ontario Railway & Municipal Board, that was rendered in connection with the Ontario Power Company case, and could have carried this case to ther, and got the same ruling, because the facts would be the same, we paid all the general taxes last year, as assessed, in the hope of arriving at a fixed assessment in the interval, that would be satisfactory to all parties, similar to what we had done in Niagara Falls, but that has not yet been accomplished.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is the amount of taxes paid by the Ontario Power Company?

WITNESS: There are two assessments; the Toronto Power Company, as we know them, have no fixed assessment; the Electric Development Company has an assessment of \$225,000. fixed assessment.

Q-- That is a small assessment. A-- About half a cent on the dollar.

MR. POPE: The Toronto & Niagara Power Company would have transmission only; the generating plant would belong to the Electric Development Company, to generate power and the Transmission Company would transmit it to Toronto. They would have a transmission line in the same township.

MR. LUNDY: There is a fixed assessment on that.

WITNESS: It was never validated by Parliament.

MR. POPE: They lived up to it. There is an exemption on the transmission line of the Toronto Power Company, which we have taken over. The township of Stamford can have no complaint, up-to-date, because the taxes are paid in full.

WITNESS: We also have an assessment of \$3,000,000









on that for school purposes.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has never been exempt for school purposes? A-- We had to fight that case before the Privy Council, twice.

Q-- Did you succeed? A-- Every time, and got a school assessment of \$3,000,000 on the Electric Development Company, and \$3,000,000 on the Canadian Niagara Company, and \$1,000,000 on the O.P. Company.

Q-- That would make your school taxes very low.

A-- It is.

Q-- Have you any general school rate for the township?

A-- Yes.

MR. POPE: They don't know what to do with the money.

WITNESS: We have a low school rate. We consider that the Assessment Act of the Province should be amended so that public utilities will have to pay the same taxation as any others.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pope spoke about that yesterday, and said that Hydro is a great municipal undertaking, and that municipal properties are exempt, and that there is a wide distinction between Hydro, which is owned in a certain sense by the municipalities, and a company like the Canadian Niagara Company, which is a stock company, and is operated for the profit of the stockholders, who I suppose comprise very few of the citizens of this country.

What do you say to that?

MR. POPE: The Canadian Niagara is a subsidiary of the Buffalo Company.

WITNESS: We are entitled to it, for two or three reasons.

THE CHAIRMAN: Speak of the distinction Mr. Pope makes between the two. A-- Hydro are carrying out previously





made contracts.

Q-- It is an enterprise operated for public profit -- or loss -- it is a public undertaking; if you had the Parliament buildings over here you wouldn't get a cent of taxes from that property, and would be put to more expense by their presence than if they were not here.

A-- We would have all the employees here.

Q-- You have all the employees of the Hydro.

A-- The cream of them are in Toronto. For instance, Sir Adam Beck draws about five times his salary out of here, and we lose the taxes entirely.

Q-- I think there is a wide distinction between municipal property, located within its own boundaries, and outside.

MR. POPE: It is outside, and doesn't pay taxes, it is located in Niagara Falls, and they don't pay taxes.

WITNESS: I think the Hydro Shop in Niagara Falls should pay taxes.

MR. POPE: Your township Hall is in the city of Niagara Falls. A-- Yes, originally the township of Stamford, which included Niagara Falls, and the Hall was built there.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you pay taxes on the township Hall?

A-- No, but they should pay taxes on the Hydro Shop which we own, in this city.

MR. POPE: In reference to school taxes, I may say, when these exemptions were made, I think the Ontario Power Company took the ground that the exemption included school taxes, it was taken to the Courts, and carried to the Privy Council, and they held that the exemptions did not include school taxes. Therefore, they have been paid by us since.

THE CHAIRMAN: They are quite satisfied as regards the school taxes?

MR. POPE: Absolutely.



THE CHAIRMAN: If the same condition applied to the other taxes, they would be satisfied too.

WITNESS: Yes; we want to have it on the Statute so we will know where we are at; we don't want these lawsuits every year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pope, do you contend that you should not pay the school taxes?

MR. POPE: The assessment fixed with respect to the Ontario Power Company covers everything by Statute. There is no power in the council to make an agreement as to fixed assessment that includes school taxes. That is what they held in the Ontario Power Case.

MR. W.P. DIXON: The township of Stamford, and the city of Niagara Falls granted a fixed assessment for a number of years, to get the Power Company here, in the hope they would be a benefit to the community when the fixed assessment expired; then Hydro came along and purchased companies, and now want to keep the township of Stamford, and the city of Niagara Falls, from getting the benefit -- they would give the benefit to Toronto.

It might be mentioned, in the case of the Ontario Power Company, that Toronto has a full half interest. The power load of the Ontario Power Company is divided into three equal sections, one section goes to the city of Toronto, one to Syracuse, and the other to the rest of the province of Ontario.

Therefore, the interest of Toronto in this Ontario Power Company is practically one-half. The city of Niagara Falls, under this amended agreement, will lose in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 a year for the next 10 years, and Toronto benefits one-half. Now, we consider that is unjust.

MR. GILBY: How does Toronto benefit <sup>by</sup> one-half?

MR. W.P. DIXON: They take one-third of the power of





Ontario Power Company.

MR. GABY: No, sir, practically all the Ontario Power Company's load, as at present <sup>totat</sup> ~~consist~~ed is not separated, all the power is going into the one general distribution system.

MR. DIXON: Positively not.

MR. GABY: And, so far as the Ontario Power Co. is concerned, the customers it had when we took it over were practically all situated within the locality of Niagara Falls, including the power going to the Niagara, Lockport and Ontario Power Company. That will show that this power is not being used by the city of Toronto.

MR. DIXON: That is my information about it, in regard to the Ontario Power condition.

THE CHAIRMAN: What difference does it make which municipality uses it, it is used by the municipalities altogether.

MR. DIXON: It does not make any difference which municipality uses it; the point is, that Niagara Falls is paying \$17.50 for power, and under this agreement we are losing \$50,000 a year. We are using 4,000 H.P., which means we have to take from our taxes about \$12.50 per H.P., and that amount added to the \$17.50 that we pay, makes \$30. per H.P. that we are actually paying for power in the city of Niagara Falls, while the city of London is paying less than that.

THE CHAIRMAN: I see your argument.

MR. GABY: On the other hand, if you take \$12.50 off, you are getting your power for \$5.

MR. DIXON: No, sir.

MR. GABY: It is a group of municipalities that are partners in this whole undertaking, and the township of Stamford, and Niagara Falls, are partners.





MR. DEXON: That may be so, in a new creation, but you did not produce this thing.

MR. GABY: It does not matter whether we produced it or not..

THE CHAIRMAN: They evidently have been looking forward, for years, to the time when the exemptions would expire, and they could collect the total taxes from these companies, and now they see these plants passing into the hands of Hydro, and do not like it.

MR. GABY: The Hydro Electric Power Commission has a fixed assessment in the O.P. Company of \$16,000 a year, and the Hydro Electric Power Commission, as a partner, is paying to Niagara Falls \$75,000, as a maximum, which is more than the original fixed assessment figure, and that \$75,000 amounted to practically the amount we were paying at the time of taking over the Ontario Power Company.

THE CHAIRMAN: They are doing better than they did under the old fixed assessment, but the municipality is not receiving nearly as much as if they had the taxes without any limitation.

MR. GABY: No, that is one of the conditions of fixed assessment. The fixed rate brought the horse-power to \$10, and they were using some 2,000 H.P. If they are paying \$30 per H.P. it is because of the difference in the fixed assessment. We did not know what conditions would be when the Ontario Power Company's contract expired, because conditions change, and if Niagara Falls and the township of Stamford had not become a partner in the purchase of that company, they might have paid considerably more for their power, we don't know.

MR. DIXON: The fixed assessment had run out when the Hydro took over the Niagara Falls Power Company.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is no chance of finishing this



subject before we adjourn for lunch.

MR. POPE: I would like to ask Mr. Stokes what he would make the assessment if he had an absolutely free hand to deal with the power plants in the township of Stamford, what would he make the total assessment?

WITNESS: I would assess them at the same rate as farm property, and residential property, that is, per ratio.

Q-- How many mills would that amount to? What would it amount to in dollars? A-- About \$25,000,000

THE CHAIRMAN: What about the canal, is any part of the canal in Stamford township? A-- All of it.

MR. POPE: Farm properties are paid on now.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think I would like to live in Stamford, if you are going to assess these properties at that rate.

WITNESS: There is lots of room.

THE CHAIRMAN: The prospects of that era do not seem to be so bright now, according to Mr. Pope.

WITNESS: You must remember that Stamford township, and the city of Niagara Falls developed these properties, and the Ontario Power development was tied up for 99 years, by legislation, and it was through W.M. German that that agreement was broken, and when we got it going, along comes Hydro and grabs up these concerns here. Sir Adam Beck's speech to the citizens of Toronto was, "Gentlemen, do you want the whole of the industries of Ontario to locate between the Welland Canal and the Niagara river, or do you want to keep them in Toronto." Niagara Falls has lost an industrial population of 200,000, and Toronto has gained. We were negotiating for the largest rubber plant in America to locate in Stamford township, and were giving them 16 acres of land in Niagara Falls, they went to Hydro and couldn't get power -- and they went to Toronto.

(Proceedings adjourned at 1.10 until 2.10 P.M.)





AFTERNOON SESSION.

Thursday, February 8th, 1923.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is Mr. E.J. Donnelly here?

E.J. DONNELLY.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Donnelly, where do you live?

A-- 28 Marguerita street, Toronto.

Q-- What is your occupation? A-- General Foreman.

Q-- Were you employed in the construction of the Queenston-Chippawa Canal? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- When were you there? A-- 1921, and 1922.

Q-- What time did you come on in 1921?

A-- I think it was in May.

Q-- Did you stay until the work was done?

A-- No, I left in June 1922.

Q-- You were there about a year? A-- A little more than a year.

Q-- What experience have you had in construction work?

A-- About 25 years.

Q-- Well you ought to know something about it in that time. Were you employed over here at the time of the strike?

A-- Yes.

Q-- What was the cause of the strike?

A-- Well, that is a pretty hard question to answer.

Q-- There may have been a good many causes? A-- Yes. I think the principal cause was, they were too greedy for money.

Q-- Who was too greedy? A-- The labourers, and men.

Q-- They wanted too much money? A-- Yes.

Q-- Well, that is a natural failing with most men, I suppose? A-- I suppose.

Q-- Were there any other contributing causes, which you can speak of? A-- The boarding camp was another big feature.



Q-- In what respect?      A-- Well, very poor board, that was the big trouble with the Hydro.

Q-- Was it managed well, and kept clean?

A-- The board in general was bad.

Q-- Were the men not satisfied with it?

A-- No, far from it.

Q-- Were you in the camp yourself at all?      A-- Yes, about 14 months.

Q-- Was the camp not kept in good condition?

A-- At first, it was run by contract, and of course it was run for the good of Mr. Upper, who ran it, and not for the good of the men.

Q-- He didn't give them as much as they should have got?

A-- It was not so much the quantity, as the quality.

Q-- And was there a lot of dissatisfaction on that account?

A-- An awful lot, I lost more men who were working for me because of the board than anything else.

Q-- Was it generally known that conditions were bad?

A-- I reported it, on several occasions, I marked on the ticket, "Left on account of board."      I reported it to Mr. Scriven, he came to me, when I was at Montrose doing contract work, with two men from the headoffice, Brown was one, and he saw the lunch some of the men had, some of the men had gone away and bought a lunch, and they saw the way the lunch was done up for the men, and they agreed it was not fit for a man to eat.

COMMISSIONER HANEY:      They saw the lunch, but on the work?      A-- On the work.      Scriven said he would look after that, and improve it.

THE CHAIRMAN:      What did you say to Mr. Scriven?

A-- "Very well."      Then it dropped back again, and each man had to buy his own lunch.

Q-- Did conditions continue bad throughout the time you





were there? A-- Yes, then the company took it over.

Q-- Do you mean the commission? A-- The commission took the boarding house over, they took Upper out, and Mr. Profit took it over for a while, until the camp got very large, and he didn't seem to be able to handle it right, there were a great number of men who left on that account.

Q-- You think that was an important element in the dissatisfaction of the men? A-- It was the biggest factor I could see why the men left the Hydro, they were well used otherwise.

Q-- Was there anything else besides this?

A-- No, not when I was there.

Q-- How would conditions that existed there in the camp compare with other camps you have been in?

A-- I have been in three, and they were pretty much all the same.

Q-- The other camps? A-- This camp was far inferior, worse than if 100 miles from the railway, I have had better food 100 miles from the railway.

Q-- There was no reason why it should not have been remedied, and put on as good footing as other camps?

A-- It should be a little better, I think.

Q-- Did you ever call the attention to anyone but Mr. Scriven about it? A-- No, I never spoke to anybody else but Mr. Scriven about it.

Q-- There were three camps that were about the same?

Q-- Three camps about the same, Montrose, the Whirlpool, and Stanley street.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Those were the three principal camps? A-- Well, the three principal ones; there was one at the forebay, and one at Chippawa.

THE CHAIRMAN: What work did you do? A-- I had charge of No. 11 shovel; I was doing concrete work also,





before No.11 started.

Q-- What was your position? A-- Foreman.

Q-- Did you ever have any repairs made on the shovel?

A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Were there any repairs made at this machine shop we have heard about? A-- Repairs were made down at the shovel excepting anything that would be broken on the shovel that would have to go to the machine shop, that would be taken down, but any small repair would be done right on the shovel.

Q-- Were repairs done promptly as required?

A-- As well as you could expect on a job of that size, there was always a great number of men out repairing other shovels, you might not get them just on the spur of the moment; in general, they were pretty prompt.

Mr. Reuter was very attentive to us on No.11, and all the big shovels were kept going.

Q-- Was he the repair man? A-- He was the superintendent of all shovels.

Q-- You think there was no undue delay in making repairs?

A-- I don't think so.

Q-- Did you form an opinion as to the efficiency, or otherwise, of the men that were employed?

A-- I would say they were all right.

Q-- What about the class of labour that was generally employed on the canal? A-- Well, on a job of that size it is pretty much all what they call 'floaters', they are here for a few days, and away again, as quick as they get a few dollars ahead they are away. But the fellows who lived around the Falls, and in Toronto, and St. Catharines, they were a good average class of labour.

Q-- What percentage of the men employed would be 'floaters'?

A-- I can't answer that question.

Q-- Could a better class of men have been obtained if



conditions had been normal, and more satisfactory?

A-- Yes.

Q-- Did the condition of the board have anything to do with not getting a better class of men on the work?

A-- I think so.

Q-- It had something to do with not getting a better class of men? A-- As far as the labour question was concerned, the management used them fairly.

Q-- We have heard something here about the use of liquor, and Sir Adam Beck stated once that that was one of the contributing causes of the extra cost of the work, what do you say about that? A-- Well, on the works I was on, there was some drinking done, not during working hours, but when men came on, and they let them go, with the exception of one or <sup>two</sup>, and they were sent home.

Q-- That was on your job? A-- Yes.

Q-- What men would come there? A-- Men who were employed, they would get drunk, and if they continued to get drunk after payday, they would let them go, the second time they came on the job, they were generally fired.

Q-- Were they engaged again, sometimes? A-- Well, not by me. It was a big job, and I can't answer that question, not being all over the works.

Q-- What about conditions in this and other parts of the work? A-- I wouldn't want to answer that.

Q-- Just what do you know about? A-- I am just answering what I know about in connection with No. 11 shovel.

Q-- You weren't around the shovel all the time, did you notice anything? A-- I was working 10 hours a day on No. 11 shovel, and no place else.

Q-- Did you form any opinion as to the conditions in other parts of the work, from what you saw yourself, so





far as drunkenness was concerned? A-- I didn't see any men who were drunk on other parts of the works at all.

Q-- What do you say as to which was the principal contributing cause of the additional cost of the work, the inefficiency of the men, or certain things relating to the management? A-- Well, I wouldn't say it was the management, I would say it was up to the labour question, that was the big item, for in August and September of 1920 I was working at concrete work, and I had different men, I suppose as high as 15 a day, who quit because the wheel-barrow was <sup>over half</sup> full of concrete, while on other jobs you could fill the wheel-barrow right up full.

Q-- If the wheel-barrow was more than half filled, they would quit? A-- They would walk away, and quit.

Q-- That would be the latter part of the time you were there? A-- That was in 1920, I was doing the sub-station at Montrose, doing the concrete work.

Q-- Now, so far as the management is concerned, would you say it was satisfactory, or not? A-- As far as I seen it, it was satisfactory.

Q-- There was no undue delay? A-- Not that could be avoided, in my estimation.

Q-- Was the night shift on when you were there on No. 11 shovel? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- And the night shift was abolished, finally?

A-- Not in my time.

Q-- Do you know why it was stopped? A-- I was not on the job at that time .

Q-- So you can't say anything from your own knowledge about that? A-- No.

Q-- Did you know of any men engaged on the job, who were making money on the side? A-- Not one.

Q-- Did you know of any men who were making money in an



illegal or improper way? A-- Not one.

Q-- So far as material was concerned, was there anything brought to your notice in which there was any waste of material? A-- Well, what little material I used around No. 11 shovel, was of such a small amount it wouldn't amount to anything anyway, it was all heavy timber we used, we used what we called 'pontoons', and when we came to a bad spot we would put ties and any old material down so as to make a foundation to enable us to cross that spot. I never saw any undue waste of material. I am just speaking of my own work, I was not around any other portion of it.

Q-- What about ties? A-- Any ties we used were dug out, we used to swing around and dig them out again, and we always carried them ahead until they were broken up and worn out so badly they were of no further use.

Q-- Did you dump any ties with your shovel? A-- Yes, there was quite a number of ties left in the cut-head, and they would be put into the car and taken to the dump.

Q-- Was there anything else that was taken to that dump?

A-- No, the ties would be the only question.

Q-- Was there any material taken to other places where it was not used, or where it was destroyed, or wasted, or lost, from your shovel, or from anything you observed?

A-- No.

Q-- Did you have much overtime on your shovel?

A-- Very little, if we put in a new cable, at the end of a shift, we would stay and either get it in, or the other crew would get it in.

Q-- What have you to say about the system of giving overtime, was there a good deal of overtime that was brought to your notice? A-- There couldn't be much overtime on a shovel, there couldn't be over an hour, because the other shift came on at 7 o'clock, and our shift would only put in



1 hour, because the other shift would take it over as soon as they came.

Q-- What about other parts of the work? A-- That would only be hearsay, and it might be a lie, and might be the truth.

Q-- There were stories about that, going out?

A-- There is talk on all jobs.

Q-- Were you on any other part of the construction work at times? A-- Yes, I was on 3 concrete jobs, at Stanley Street, at the Montrose sub-station, and Montrose Camps.

Q-- Did it come to your knowledge that there was any overtime given unnecessarily? A-- Not in connection with the work I was on.

Q-- Anything you knew about that work was what you heard from the men working on it? A-- I didn't pay much attention to what I heard.

Q-- Well, I believe you are right. We all know it was the Commission that conducted the work on the Canal?

A-- Yes.

Q-- How did that cost of carrying on the work by the Commission compare with if it had been carried on by contractors? A-- Well, you are asking me a question that I am sorry to say I am not in a position to be able to answer, because I haven't the education necessary; but as far as my experience went, I think a contractor would have made quite a pile of money; if he didn't, he wouldn't be doing it.

COMMISSIONER HAWLEY: On the cost? A-- Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: He would have made a pile of money?

A-- It is quite evident he would.

Q-- Some contractors do make a pile of money on jobs, but what I am thinking of is the cost to the Commission; do you think the Commission, if it had let the contract to





contractors, could the Commission have done the work at least cost, than it cost to carry out the work itself?

A-- Yes, in my humble opinion, I think they could.

Q-- What ground have you for saying that? A-- It is a known fact that a contractor, when he takes a contract, can get more work out of the men, that the attitude of labour is different to what it is on a Government job.

Q-- In what way? A-- The average labourer, in fact, the average man, will say, "It is my own job, it is the Government who is paying me, why should I kill myself," whereas if he is working for a contractor, he is treated as a private individual, and has to work, or pull out.

COMMISSIONER HANLEY: Or the contractor wouldn't have money enough to pay him? A-- Or the contractor wouldn't have money enough to pay him his wages. There is a vast difference between a contractor, and the Government, in the attitude of the average labouring man.

THE CHAIRMAN: They think the Government can afford to lose money, better than the contractor?

A-- I don't know whether they think he can afford to lose it or not, but they take that attitude towards it.

Q-- So you think the work could have been done cheaper?

A-- In my humble opinion, yes.

Q-- You speak of the attitude that the average man has towards a Government job, as compared with a contractor's job; did the men on the Canal seem to regard it as a Government job? A-- Yes, they couldn't regard it as anything else.

Q-- And this feeling you speak of, did that prevail among the men? A-- The majority of the men, yes, but it is like that on all Government work, as far as I ever have known in connection with the work.

Q-- That would apply to any Government job, where the



Government was doing the work directly itself?

A-- I think so, yes.

Q-- Were there any other things that might have been done to reduce the cost of the work, other than letting it by contract, was there anything about the management, or the organization, which played any part in that?

A-- Well, I wouldn't want to say so, I don't think there was, I think it was well managed for a job of that size, really well managed.

Q-- Were there any delays, or anything that might have been avoided? A-- I might think it could be avoided, and when you heard the other side of the story, you might think it couldn't be avoided, such as trains coming to the shovel, I might be waiting 15 or 20 minutes for a train, and call someone on the telephone about the train, and find that the other shovel was holding up our train, and the trains were all in the dump and the others couldn't get out. I have had minor delays that way which couldn't be avoided. It is not a question of mismanagement.

Q-- Were there any instances in which more men were sometimes employed than was economical, that is, employed on a particular part of the work? A-- Well, I could answer that question as "yes" and I could answer it as "no." On No. 11 shovel we had a man working there, and to an outsider it would look very foolish to have him there, but still it was quite economical; all that man had to do was to keep water to the shovel, but still, if he was not there, if we had to discontinue operations for an hour, the loss of time would pay 10 or 15 men's wages.

Q-- It served a useful purpose? A-- Yes, although to an outsider it was foolish to have that man there.

Q-- I am asking you, as a practical man?

A-- That is the way rumours would get out, people seeing





a man sunning himself on the side of the shovel would think that he was having a good time, yet he was there for a good purpose.

Q-- People might see engineers walking around the job, and wondering what they were there for? A-- Yes.

Q-- You have spoken about these men that might seem, to an outsider, to be unnecessary on the shovel, were there any cases which came to your notice where there were more men employed than you think was economical?

A-- I was not in a place to see these things, I was on No. 11 shovel 10 hours a day, so I couldn't see them.

Q-- So that, can you speak of any, of your own knowledge, instance, where your observation led you to the conclusion that the men were unnecessary, and numerous?

A-- There was no work going on when I was going to the work, or coming from it.

Q-- So you hadn't much opportunity of seeing?

A-- I didn't have much opportunity.

Q-- Take this man who was on the shovel, and didn't seem to be doing very much, was he a necessary man, in your judgment? A-- He was surely necessary.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: You have had a lot of experience on contracting, and you have had to do with handling labour? A-- Yes.

Q-- What have you to say with regard to the efficiency of common labour that you got in 1920 and 1921, as compared with the efficiency of the same class of pick and shovel labour, and concrete labourers, during 1913 and 1914, before the War? A-- 1920 was inferior to before the War, 1921 I had practically the same gang on the shovel right through, and I had no trouble with labour on the shovel, or around it.

Q-- I am talking about efficiency; you were speaking



about a concrete gang leaving their job because the wheelbarrow was more than half filled; I mean that sort of thing.

A-- In 1921, we had our labour troubles, and after the strike, we had a lot of trouble.

Q-- I am thinking more or soldiering on the job. This has been an expensive job, and somebody has to account for the excess costs, and excess costs are charged up very often to the inefficiency of labour; taking a job which you did before the war, and a job you did in 1920 or 1921, how would the labour stack up in both cases as regards efficiency and willingness to work, and the amount of work turned out?

A-- I would say about 3 men in 1912 and 1913 would do as much as 5 in 1920 or 1921.

Q-- That is for common labourers? A-- Yes.

Q-- That same discrepancy didn't exist in the trained labour, the mechanics, and that sort of thing, they weren't as bad?

A-- I know nothing about that at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: Supposing your work on the shovel had been done before the War, would you have required as many men as you had in 1920 and 1921? A-- On that class of shovel, yes.

Q-- Would you get as much out of your men in 1920, on the shovel, as you would have got out of the same number of men on the shovel before the War? A-- Well, around this No. 11 shovel, there was so much work to do, and we never had any trouble in regard to getting it done, but around the other shovels, I was sent up to a shovel, away up near Montrose, a small shovel, where they had a lot of trouble, and I sent up a gang to that shovel, and some stayed 1 hour, and some longer, but in the majority of cases they came away before dinner; they wouldn't attempt to work on it at all. Previous to the War, they would have been glad to work at it.





Q-- I am thinking of your own shovel; did you use just the same number of men in 1920 - 21 on that work, as you would have used on the same shovel, if you had been doing that work 4 or 5 years earlier? A-- I can't answer that, because there was no such shovel in existence at that time.

Q-- Would you have practically the same number of men on the shovel year in and year out? A-- Yes.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: The shovel has to have a crew? A-- It has to have a crew of men.

Q-- The men in the crew have to keep up with the shovel, to keep up with the pace? A-- Each man has his portion of work to do.

THE CHAIRMAN: In the higher class of labour, how would the men working on the job in 1920-21, measure up with the same class of men before the War, in efficiency, such as carpenters?

COMMISSIONER HANEY: And runners and cranesmen?

A-- Runners and cranesmen were ace-high.

THE CHAIRMAN: And were fully as efficient as at other times? A-- Yes.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: What about trained men, like machinists, and carpenters? A-- For the small amount of work we have for carpenters and machinists, I can't form an opinion; they also done their portion all right.

Q-- What was the nationality of the majority of the common labourers? A-- From the four winds of the earth.

MR. ACRES: We even had a Turk.

THE CHAIRMAN: How did the work on your shovel compare with the work on similar shovels there, No. 12, say?

A-- Well, I think No. 11 has got the record there.

Q-- Yours was No. 11? A-- Yes, sir. I think No. 11 had the biggest shift put out in the Canal.

Q-- What is the reason yours had a better record?





COMMISSIONER HANEY: Donnelly was the reason.

A-- It was an Irish gang. I wouldn't want to say that it was Donnelly, at all, at all. I think we had a little better runner, probably, than was on No. 12.

THE CHAIRMAN: What was the size of No. 11 shovel?

A-- 300 tons.

Q-- It was operated on 4 tracks?

A-- On 4 tracks.

Q-- What was the size of the bucket? A-- 8 yards.

Q-- And what was the lift? A-- About 85 feet.

Q-- How far was the track above the shovel?

A-- I think the top of the car would be about 82 feet, at places, some places lower.

Q-- How much would it move in 10 hours? A-- We moved 296 cars in 9 hours and 25 minutes.

Q-- What would they hold? A-- I think that day there were 7 cars that held 16 yards, and the rest were 20 yard cars.

Q-- They would hold about three quarters of that in solid measurement -- 15 yards to the car?

A-- I suppose it would average about 15 yards.

MR. ACRES: It averaged about 18 yards.

WITNESS: I don't think we got that average for it, when they came to call us down, they didn't give us that average on the car.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: This was all earth?

A-- Yes, all earth.

Q-- Was there any digging? A-- At places, yes.

Q-- It would be about 4500 yards? A-- Something like that.

Q-- Were they quick sinkers? A-- From 20 seconds to 40 would be the average per bucket.

THE CHAIRMAN: What does that mean? A-- 20 seconds



to load up, and dump, that is when loading on the same side of the cut, of course, when on the opposite side, we would have to swing clean across the cut. I have seen them put in 3 buckets to the minute.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: What will the ordinary 70 ton shovel do? A-- It will do it a little faster than that, I think about 12 to the minute.

Q-- For the ordinary shovel? A-- Yes, in good digging.

Q-- A bucket about quarter the size of yours? A-- It would be a yard bucket.

Q-- Just what was your position, you say you were in charge of this shovel, you weren't the man in front of the shovel, you had a foreman? A-- No, I was what we called in contracting work, 'pit foreman', they call them on this job 'walking boss'.

Q-- You didn't have immediate charge of the men when moving up the shovel? A-- Yes, I was in charge of the shovel, under the supervision of Mr. Reuter, I was in charge of the runner, and the whole outfit, but couldn't discharge the foreman or cranesman, but any of the pitmen I could discharge.

Q-- Did you get good train service? A-- As good as could be expected.

Q-- What does the shovel depend upon, to get the maximum output, isn't it the train service? A-- Yes.

Q-- Continuous operation? A-- Continuous operation.

Q-- Did you get that? A-- Not every day, we didn't.

Q-- There were interruptions? A-- Surely, there would be trouble, there would be a slide at the dump, that would take the track away, and the train couldn't get back.

Q-- You hadn't anything to do with that? A-- No.

Q-- You simply loaded the cars? A-- Yes, and set them out past the switch, and I was clear of them.





Q-- How were your tracks on the incline?

A-- I never worked on the incline at all.

Q-- You weren't on the incline?

A-- No, the tracks were all up on the surface.

Q-- You hoisted the material up there?

A-- Yes.

Q-- Did you have to do any cribbing in connection with the work of your shovel?

A-- No, except once we had a wash-out and had to fill in with rocks to get the track back to its place.

Q-- What do you think of those shovels anyway, for practical construction?

A-- On a job of that kind, they are a great shovel.

Q-- Did you have any serious difficulty in moving them?

A-- No, very easily moved, easily handled; they are a good shovel. When being operated on both shifts, they are liable to go on the bum.

Q-- That is, the night man is liable to get into trouble?

A-- Where there are two men working on one shovel, who don't handle it just the same, there is more or less trouble.

Q-- Did you have many breakages?

A-- Not an awful lot, there were a few.

Q-- They were a new type of shovel, and some parts would be weak and strengthened up when repaired?

A-- Yes.

Q-- Did you use a cable, or chain?

A-- Cable.

Q-- How long would they last?

A-- They would vary, I have seen them go in 11 days, and I have seen them last for 5 weeks.

Q-- What size of cable did you use?

A-- Inch and seven-eighths.

Q-- Single whip?

A-- Single.

Q-- Was your shovel an electric shovel?

A-- No, steam.



Q-- What make? A-- Marion.

Q-- You had nothing to do with the electric shovel?

A-- No.

Q-- Do you mean to say that your steam shovel accomplished more than the big electrical shovels?

A-- I think so, that was the reports we got, that we were ahead; Mr. Scriven used to tell us we were ahead.

Q-- Can you give an idea of the percentage of delays due to car service, would there be 2 hours delay waiting for cars, in a day? A-- No.

Q-- That is, delays owing to trouble?

A-- On an average, no.

Q-- How much, an hour? A-- We might have an hour.

Q-- It might be an hour and a half, it is hard to say?

A-- Yes, it will be hard to answer a question like that.

Q-- Unless you had a record? A-- Yes.

Q-- It is your feeling that you got fairly good car service? A-- Yes.

Q-- What was the length of your trains?

A-- 6 and 7 cars.

Q-- They weren't hauling up an incline? A-- No, except at the disposal.

Q-- Was there any delay in changing trains from back to front? A-- No delay.

Q-- Did you have 2 tracks? A-- Yes, a double track, one on one side of the cut, and one on the other, and loaded each way.

Q-- You were able to reach both sides of the cut?

A-- Yes.

MR. ACRES: I was going to say, there might be some light shed on this matter of the efficiency of the shovel crews; of course, as far as the runners and

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cranesmen were concerned, I don't think there every were better or more efficient men on any job than we had on this work, they were an unusually fine type of men; and any criticism we ever made as to the labour efficiency on that work does not apply in any shape or form to the mechaniss on the shovels; the shovel engineers, or runners, as a class, were very fine men.

Mr. Donnelly didn't make it clear that in connection with the work in front of No. 11 shovel, it was fairly dry work, was it not? A-- Yes.

Q-- Ahead of the smaller shovels, you mentioned one place where you went to take charge of a small shovel, where you couldn't keep the men on the job?

A-- I was not in charge, I was sending crews up to it.

Q-- The trouble we had mainly, was in front of the wet shovels, where there was wet going; the labour we got during the War, was not nearly of as hardy a type as usually obtainable for work of that kind, and in numerable instances where the men would report as ready for work in the morning, and saw a little water in front of the work, they would walk off the job. You know that, Mr. Donnelly?

A-- Yes, in fact, some refused to put on rubber boots where there was 6 inches of water; I have seen a great many cases of that occur. I took a crew up to this shovel, and they wouldn't put on rubber boots, and went away.

THE CHAIRMAN: We were told yesterday that rubber boots and oilclothing were furnished to the men; did yours get them? A-- They got everything they wanted in that line.

Q--Did they use them? A-- Some wouldn't use them, on different occasions they refused to use them, and would walk away from the shovel.





COMMISSIONER HANEY: It would make their feet sore, I suppose?

MR. ACRES: I think I am right in saying that before the War you not only would have got a crew who would work in that water, but they wouldn't have been offered rubber boots, Mr. Donnelly?

A-- You could have got them to work anywhere; if men would be inhuman enough to make them work without rubber boots they could have got them to do it.

Q-- In the summer time I have seen men who would work in shallow water, and rather than walk into a puddle of water, they would walk around it, and possibly only have to step into it occasionally.

A-- I had no trouble at all on No. 11 shovel, I had no reason to criticize the crew on that shovel at all.

Q-- The principal reason, is, I think, because there was not much water in front of No. 11.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: You had worked on shovels before, Mr. Donnelly?

A-- Yes, I had charge of a shovel for myself.

Q-- Where?

A-- At Port Credit.

Q-- I am speaking of general construction work, earth work.

A-- Yes.

Q-- What did you ever get out of a 70 ton shovel?

A-- In order to answer that question, I would have to go back and look over some records, if I had thought I would be asked that question, I could have told off hand.

Q-- Many of them have a capacity of 300 yards an hour?

A-- I didn't see any of them.

MR. ACRES: That would be easy in gravel.

WITNESS: I never worked on one where we got 300 yards, in construction work.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: You haven't done as much work



as I have?

A-- I admit that.

MR. ACRES: You may have got it in a gravel bed.

WITNESS: That is not on construction work, that is in a pit.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: I was trying to get a comparison between the big shovels, and No. 70.

A-- You couldn't keep the trains clear, if you had that No. 11 shovel in some big pit.

MR. ACRES: About the comparative capacities of the electric and steam shovels: No. 11 shovel made the biggest monthly record of any shovel on the job, of 180,000 yards, in a month of work, but the best earth record was made by No. 8, and I think No. 1, I think they both at one time took out 170,000 yards a month, on the ordinary working days. The biggest individual daily record was by No. 11, 8,600 yards, and 7,800 for the next.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: They must have been well supplied with cars.

MR. ACRES: I do not think the average haul for cars in 24 hours was more than half or three quarters of an hour.

THE CHAIRMAN: How did the record of the big electric shovels compare with No. 11?

MR. ACRES: The large electrical shovels made the best record on this work. On a comparative basis, the electrical shovel would have made about 185,000. and 190,000 yards, if it had worked two Sundays, to put her on par with No. 11.

In regard to the ties, in front of these large shovels there were pilot cuts which had been taken out by the smaller shovels, and in practically all of these pilot cuts, loading tracks, and shovel tracks, ties had been





placed in the soft material, and the tracks laid on these ties, and after the small shovels were finished, the ties were salvaged, and the rails, angle bars, and spikes, were all removed. In most cases, the ties had been given severe treatment, and were so deeply sunk into the holes that it was not practicable to salvage them at all, as it would cost \$10. a day for the labour to take those ties out. All the ties would be good for would be for firewood, and they were so impregnated with mud, grit, dirt, and spikes that practically all we could do with them was to burn them, and they were often used for building fires along the canal in winter time. Where the big shovels loosened any of these ties, large numbers of old loading track ties went to the dump. Many were used for putting blocks under the shovels, and for repairing the ties along the track. So that this question of ties going to the dump was not merely an oversight, or a matter of carelessness, it was purely a matter of economics.

THE CHAIRMAN: What do you say as to the quality of the ties that you sent to the dump, Mr. Donnelly?

WITNESS: Well, we got good ties out of that, and there has been bad ties too; when we tore these ties loose, and they weren't tied together, we would pick out the best of them; in general, you couldn't take the ties from in front of No. 12 shovel, it would be too dangerous putting them in.

THE CHAIRMAN: What number of men were attached to one of those electric shovels, and to a steam shovel?

MR. ACRES: There is no use having a large number of men in front of a steam shovel, the pit crew would have to be slightly larger; and the number of men serving the shovel would be larger in case of the steam shovel, for the purpose of handling fuel, ashes, water, &c.



COMMISSIONER HANEY: You took out 180,000 yards, was that with a night and day shift of two ten hour shifts?

MR. ACRES: Yes. The steam shovels required more of an operating staff, directly and indirectly, than the electric shovels.

In the matter of the question of the economics of the contract, I was rather taken unawares as to the question put to Mr. Donnelly.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is, about contracting?

MR. ACRES: Yes; we haven't any witnesses here who can testify as to that.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is a pretty big question; it came up incidentally.

MR. ACRES: It is really a question for contractors to answer. It occurs to me, looking around the room, that there is one man here who can speak from the same point of view as Mr. Donnelly; I haven't the slightest idea what he is likely to say, but as a matter of curiosity I should like to call him for a minute or two.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to ask Mr. Donnelly anything more?

MR. ACRES: I think not.

MR. POPE: Mr. Donnelly, was it during your time that an investigation was made as to the camp conditions by the members of Parliament?

A-- No.

Q-- There was an investigation and report, I presume, Mr. Chairman, you have seen it?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. ACRES: We did a lot of investigating, and made changes in our camps in order to try to make things satisfactory. We always got a difference of opinion on matters of that kind; I think we can call a number of witnesses who





will say that the food was good.

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MR. RUETER: (General Shovel Repair Foreman).

THE CHAIRMAN: You wish to ask some questions, Mr. Acres?

MR. ACRES: I just want to ask Mr. Rueter, in the light of his experience on the work of that time, under contractors, and under the management as it existed on this work, whether he thinks there was any outstanding difference as regards the actual methods that were used for construction, and the efficiency with which it was carried on from the standpoint of management, that, of course, means cost.

The important factor that distinguished between contract work, and as we did it, was that it was put right up to the management, and it must be assumed that contractors had to content with the same labour, and economic conditions, that we did. It resolves itself into a pure question of efficiency of management, and efficiency of organization.

WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, I had about 25 years' experience in general contracting work, in both the United States and Canada, and in my experience I have never seen a job put through as economically and as efficiently as this one was, from the standpoint of management. Of course, the efficiency of labour is always an influence. The only man to blame for it is the Kaiser; the labour market was more or less depressed all the time, and it was a hard proposition to get labour.

THE CHAIRMAN: The problem we are discussing is with regard to the comparative merits of doing the work by contract or directly under Government auspices?

A-- I don't think a contractor could handle a job of that size, under the conditions they had to cope with; it was out of the ordinary line of work, first we had quick-sand, and





more or less water to contend with, and the line of machinery was an oddity as compared with the average job, and the depth of the canal was unusual. On the whole, I think the Commission would put it through a great deal cheaper than a contractor could. From my experience as a shovel runner, I have not been on a job yet where I had to work as hard in the operation of the shovel, as on this work.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Were you on the Panama Canal?

A-- No, sir, I was not. The cars were constantly under the shovel, except perhaps for three or four hours in many months; as a rule, there were always one or two trains at the shovel. I think every shovel man on the job will verify my statement. I have heard many of the men say that they never worked as hard as on this job.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rueter, speaking generally, as to Government, and contract work, which is likely to be done the cheapest, assuming it is possible to do the work by contract?

A-- That is a hard question for me to answer, I might think I could do it cheaper than you could, and then fall down on some thing; I know of some contractors who took work under the estimates of the Hydro, and lost money.

Q-- Mr. Donnelly said there was always a difference in the attitude of labour, that labour could not be keyed up to do as much on Government work, as on a contracting job.

A-- I never saw it on this job.

Q-- Speaking generally?

A-- I don't know, of course, common labour depreciated a lot during the war.

Q-- We are not talking about that; I am asking you to compare one system with the other, is one likely to result in getting much more from the labour than the other?

A-- No, I can't see it. The management was efficient in every way; our general superintendent could not have been



better; Mr. Scriven was a contractor himself, and Mr. Angell is one of the leading contractors in the country, and they were well versed in the contracting business. I have been censured for delays that were not my fault; we were not allowed to lay down a minute, in any manner, shape or form. If my family hadn't been here, I would have left the job lots of times, because I felt I had to work harder than I would have had to work on any other job.

MR. ACRES: Coming on the job as an absolute stranger and starting to work on it, would you consider, from what you saw on the job, there was anything to enable you to distinguish as between whether it was operated under contract, or operated as it was?

A-- No, sir.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Where have you done work?

A-- I have worked for Mr. Scriven.

Q-- Where? A-- At Eugenia Falls.

Q-- Did you do any steam shovel work there?

A-- Yes, sir, and I worked for the Grand Trunk in Montreal, and Toronto at the Exhibition grounds, running that cut through

Q-- Were you running a shovel there?

A-- Yes, running a shovel, working for the City of Toronto.

Q-- What size of shovel? A-- 70 Marion.

Q-- Do you know what you happened to get out of that?

A-- I don't just remember, the work was delayed on account of the number of trains coming through.

Q-- There were a good many interruptions?

A-- Yes, still we worked nicely, that was under Mr. McObo, I believe he is the terminal superintendent there now.

Q-- Where else? A-- I worked for the City of Toronto, and I worked for Johnston of Port Hope, and for Piggott on the Guelph & Goderich, and I worked on a lot of general con-





travelling through the United States.

Q-- You don't remember what you accomplished with your No. 70 Marion, in 10 hours?      A-- No, I don't, Mr. Haney.

Q-- How was the digging there generally; you said you were in water in places?      A-- We had a lot of seepage to contend with.

Q-- Did you have a trench?      A-- As far as possible.

Q-- Sump holes?      A-- Sump holes and pumps.

Q-- You should have kept pretty dry?

A-- We did, as far as we could, but there was a certain amount of water in the pit.

Q-- Your work was principally seeing that the shovels were in order, and properly manned?

A-- I first came as shovel engineer on the steam shovel, it was just the last two years I had charge of the repairs.

Q-- Charge of keeping the shovels in order?      A-- Yes.

Q-- Did you have anything to do with hiring, and directing men?      A-- Yes, I hired engineers, cranesmen, and foremen.

Q-- Those were immediately under Mr. Reed?      A-- Yes.

Q-- Or immediately under you?      A-- I was directly under Mr. Reed.

Q-- Did you have anything to do with the train service?

A-- No, sir.

MR. CRES:      In moving these big shovels, for instance moving No. 1 from the Whirlpool to Queenston, to put the shovel into rock, and No. 1 from the Whirlpool up to the Grand Trunk, and No. 2 and No. 12, can you give the Commission some idea of whether you think a contractor could have done any better?

COMMISSIONER H. MEY:      You didn't exceed the speed limit of 30 miles an hour?

A-- When moving No. 2, when the Bucyrus Company erected



No. 2, I believe it was in the neighborhood of 5 weeks from the time she came here until they completed the erection, and when we tore her down and moved her half mile, we had her working again in a little over a week. I spoke to the Bucyrus man about it, and he didn't think it was possible.

Q-- Would you have to tear down the shovel, to move it?

A-- Yes, and the Bucyrus people wouldn't believe that we had done it in that length of time.

Q-- You had cranes, and everything to handle the parts?

A-- Yes, and put men wherever we could work them. The same way with No. 1, we did the same thing with her, we tore her down in less time than they got her up in the first place.

Q--The ordinary shovel would be pulled out of the pit in the ordinary way? A-- Yes, but the efficiency of the officials on this job I don't think could be beat; carpenter boss, general superintendent, assistant superintendent, master mechanic, and machine shop foremen, were all, in my estimation, first-class men.

Q-- Why would you say anything else?

A-- I can't conscientiously say anything else, and do justice to the men.

THE CHAIRMAN: You omitted yourself?

A-- That is for somebody higher than me to speak about my ability.

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THE CHAIRMAN: We will finish with the Township of Stamford. We do not want to cut you down unreasonably, gentlemen, but would ask you to get through as quickly as you can. Any of you who are going to speak with regard to the Township of Stamford should come right inside the railing so we can talk to you all at once.

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T. R. STOKES:

THE CHAIRMAN: Where were you at, when we left off?

A-- We were speaking of the matter of taxation in the Township of Stamford.

Q-- What part of it? A-- The taxation of companies now enjoying a fixed assessment.

Q-- What points were still left, that you hadn't brought out, and that you want to take up now? I think you covered the ground pretty well, we heard your arguments in favour of your proposal, is there anything more you would like to say that has a bearing on the question?

A-- There is one clause in the Assessment Act we would like changed.

Q-- We have no jurisdiction over the Assessment Act. We have something to say as to the administration of the Hydro, and what they should pay for what it gets.

A-- We have a district in Stamford that is served by the Stamford Hydro.

Q-- That is, the local Hydro, connected with the Province of Ontario? A-- Yes. We have municipal lands where there are no power lines; last year we passed a by-law to grant \$20,000 towards constructing lines to cover that area. That was to pay for one-half the cost of construction of primary lines, and we got a Government bonus for the other half.

Q-- What about that? A-- We would like you to recommend that the Act should be amended.

Q-- What have we to do with that? Did you not take it up with the Hydro? A-- Yes, we have taken it up.

Q-- Do you want us to help you get it ahead faster?

What is the trouble, Mr. Gaby, can you not get the line into operation that they voted on this year?

MR. GABY: The matter has been forwarded to the





Commission, and a report has been made, and is now being presented to the Commission for consideration; it has not been dealt with yet, but it is in the form of a report now, ready for presentation, and I presume it will be dealt with within the next few days, or as soon as the Commission can meet.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Stokes, you haven't waited long?

A-- No.

Q-- I think you are doing well. It will come up within a few days.

A-- That is all I have to say.

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H. F. GARNER:

THE CHAIRMAN: What have you to say, Mr. Garner?

A-- Mr. Chairman, I say that what we want in Stamford is the privilege of assessment on the properties that Hydro have taken over that were in operation when they took them over.

Q-- That is just what Mr. Stokes said? A-- Yes.

Q-- You are just backing up what he said?

A-- Part of what Mr. Stokes said.

Q-- I think it is highly desirable, from your standpoint, that you should get what you ask, which would make you the strongest municipality in Ontario.

A-- If we don't get it, we will be one of the weakest.

Q-- Mr. Pope says he gave more than the law allows; you heard what he said about the amount of money they are spending on the roads for you. Perhaps you don't appreciate all they are doing for you.

A-- The stone, and the money, we got from the Hydro was not altogether for roads.

Q-- How much do you get for school taxes, from the different companies?



MR. STOKES: Somewhere in the neighborhood of \$40,000.

Q-- That would help your school taxes very nicely?

MR. STOKES: To educate the Hydro children.

Q-- Each Hydro employee would pay taxes on his house; do they have more children than other people?

MR. POPE: During the construction of the camp there were a lot of Hydro employees who had children who were unable to go to school because the authorities would not let them, and we paid the Township in order to give the children schooling, and distributed the other children elsewhere. That was done in order to take care of the children of the people working in the camp. The children were not eligible for that school section, and they were not going to school, then we were approached, and we made an arrangement by which we paid \$150 a month to take care of the school children.

THE CHAIRMAN: They are not complaining.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Do people remember past favours?

MR. POPE: I think so; they are not a bad lot.

WITNESS: They left a lot of those children there, and we have several families that we are keeping now.

The main question with regard to the Township of Stamford is that those franchises run out next year, and according to the law, Hydro can back down, if they want to, although I don't really think they want to back down altogether.

MR. POPE: May I make a suggestion. Under the law, we are entitled to pay to the Township of Stamford taxes upon the lands only, owned and controlled by the Commission; now I have told them, and the Commission have authorized me to tell them, that the Commission is not disposed to hold them to that law, but are anxious to make an arrangement for a fixed assessment similar to the arrangement made with the





City of Niagara Falls. I have not been told yet what the Township of Stamford actually wants.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you made an offer?

MR. POPE: No, because there has been no zero point to work on.

THE CHAIRMAN: You should make a start.

MR. POPE: I say that it should come from the other party. If they would make some proposal, and come to Toronto, we will try to arrange it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will you leave it to us?

MR. POPE: I don't know about that.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you got all the taxes, you would be able to raise the salaries of the Township officials. Is there anyone else?

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MR. BOULTER:

THE CHAIRMAN: What do you want to say, Mr. Boulter?

A-- I don't know that I have anything to say. We were given to understand that I was to talk about the dry wells, but as we are talking about the assessment, I might say that Hydro appealed the assessment in 1922, and we went to Toronto and it was finally arranged that we would let it go until the end of the fixed assessment, and, in the meantime, we would get together and make some arrangement.

Q-- You see that Mr. Pope is in a negotiable mood, he wants you to make an offer.

A-- The move was made at that time, we got \$4,000, and got along nicely with it, then the assessment was appealed, and we didn't know where we were at. I do not think that the Commission is to blame, nor is the Township Council.

Q-- You should get together.

MR. POPE: They made a number of trips, on Township



matters, and we couldn't see them.

WITNESS: Mr. Carmichael will agree that there was no trouble on between us, and we did discuss the matter to a large extent, and might have come to an agreement, and I believe would have come to an agreement; only we were not in a position to do so until November, and then the Council was going out of office and didn't want to take it up.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you one of the Council?

A-- Not now, they threw me out this year.

Q-- Were you on one of the trips to Toronto?

A-- I was on the Council last year.

COMMISSIONER HANNEY: And the year before?

A-- Not the year before.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you make some trips to Toronto?

A-- I made a good many; I was there about the water question

Q-- What about the water question?

A-- You heard about them digging in water in the canal -- that came out of our wells, all the wells went dry.

Q-- Do you live in the Township? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Was there a deputation to Toronto about the dry wells?

A-- Yes, I was chairman of the Water Committee; and I was appointed also on the Committee by the farmers who lost their wells, to deal with the matter with the Hydro; so I was at Toronto a good many times.

Q-- Where did the water go that used to go into the wells?

A-- In the canal.

Q-- The canal is all concreted, how could the water get in?

A-- It gets in.

Q-- It is all concreted, I don't see why it has drained the wells.

A-- The district where most of the wells went dry, it is a long way to the rock, and the water was in the gravel on top of the rock.

Q-- And does the canal stop the water from getting in the





wells?           A-- The canal was cut through the rock, and the water gets down in the cut.

Q-- What was done to make good the loss occasioned by the dry wells?       A-- We have not much fault to find with the Hydro; we were a little nervous at the time, but they delivered water by tanks, with waggons, in part of the Township of Stamford.

Q-- Where does the Township get its water from?

A-- They took our water.

Q-- Have you a waterworks system in the Township?

A-- Yes.

MR. GABY:       There are certain springs on the Hydro job, on the canal section, and the water was pumped from those springs; originally, they had no spring which they were pumping from.

WITNESS:       We used to get water from the cut through Lundy's Lane.

THE CHAIRMAN:   How are these farmers supplied with water at the present time?

A-- By an arrangement with Hydro, they are re-drilling wells and supplying water again.

Q-- Has that been done?   A-- They are doing it now.

Q-- In the meantime, how are you getting water?

A-- In waggons.   We have a pipe line, and get it from the pipes.

Q-- What portion is served by the pipe line?

A-- I think there are 65 people in the Township of Stamford.

Q-- Sixty-five families?   A-- No, 65 taken care of by the drilling.

Q-- Sixty-five different farmers?   A-- Yes, 65 being taken care of by the drilling in the outside district.

MR. STOKES:     Between 700 and 800 by the pipes.

WITNESS:       205 wells altogether dry.





THE CHAIRMAN: All those 205 wells are being served by having water piped, or by having wells re-drilled?

A-- Yes.

Q-- So they will all be supplied?

A-- There has been an agreement made with Hydro, which they are carrying out.

Q-- Who pays the cost of putting in the pipe line to these farms?

A-- The Hydro have taken care of 80 per cent of the cost of the pipe line.

Q-- What sizes are the pipes? A-- 4, 6, and 8. We asked for 100 per cent. but they didn't want to pay it.

Q-- Who pays for the water? A-- The people who take water pay the Township.

Q-- They have to pay for the water, instead of getting it from the wells?

MR. POPE: They had to pump the water before, now they get it from gravitation. In order to facilitate this discussion, I may say that those wells were started, when a few went dry near the canal; and we found out that there was no legal liability upon the Commission to make them good; however, we started to put out barrels, and the practice increased until the total of 218 wells went dry. Then the Township extended the water system they already had, and took care of 106 of those; 24 of them were being supplied by Richmond Township system, making 88 all told that were left. Then the Commission made an arrangement with them by which they should start to drill themselves, or by contract, or if we could do it as far as we had facilities. We were to allow them \$3 a foot for the drilling, not to exceed 100 feet, which was fairly liberal. They went on with that, and it has resulted in there being only 17 wells left to be drilled, and those are being drilled.

THE CHAIRMAN: When you get through with that, every one



will be supplied either by pipes or wells?

MR. POPE: There were some people 4 miles away, who thought they should have a well.

THE CHAIRMAN: How much has your generosity cost you?

MR. POPE: We paid to the Township \$67,000 towards their system; they paid a percentage.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am told that the cost of the pipe line is \$126,000.

MR. POPE: We paid \$67,000 towards that.

THE CHAIRMAN: If they were to pay 80 per cent, it would be more than that.

MR. POPE: There were certain parts that did not comply with the regulations.

THE CHAIRMAN: How much did the wells cost you?

MR. POPE: The average cost is about \$212 or \$215.

THE CHAIRMAN: What was the cost of supplying them with water at that time?

MR. POPE: It cost a lot of money, a very large amount, because the roads got bad and we had to put on two horses.

THE CHAIRMAN: You think, when you finish it, you will be through?

MR. POPE: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything more?

WITNESS: Nothing on that line. They didn't want to assume liability, and there was a little delay.

Q-- Did you have difficulty in getting them to do these things? A-- They claimed they wanted to wait till they were through, so they could see how many wells would go dry. When they told us they had no liability, we didn't take it seriously.

Q-- You are getting to understand them?

A-- They didn't turn us down badly.





THE CHAIRMAN: I very much doubt, Mr. Pope, if you find 17 wells will be all you have to dig.

MR. POPE: We are through, when they are put in.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Mr. Boulter, what part did you take?

A-- I took a leading part.

Q-- This Committee was appointed by whom?

A-- Appointed by the people who lost their wells.

Q-- You were acting for the Committee?

A-- Acting for the people.

Q-- Were you paid by the Committee for your work?

A-- No, they didn't even pay my expenses yet.

Q-- Do you hope to get them? A-- I guess not.

Q-- Did the Hydro pay you anything?

A-- No, sir, not a dollar; I may have been blamed in the Township for getting paid by the Hydro, but I didn't get it. I was working for the people, not for the Hydro.

MR. POPE: Mr. Boulter and his Committee had great difficulty, because it was a delicate question, it was difficult to get the members of that Committee to agree to anything because some of the people wanted \$1,000, some \$2,000, and some wanted to sell the farm. Mr. Boulter spent considerable time drawing up a memorandum as to what they would do, and he got them practically all signed up, and it was started on its way so we could do business.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: He was really doing that for the Hydro?

WITNESS: No, for the people.

MR. POPE: It was for the Township, and he was helping us to get rid of the trouble.

THE CHAIRMAN: This does not include the wells on your own farms?

MR. POPE: Yes, 13 wells on our own farms.



COMMISSIONER HANEY: Mr. Boulter, were you employed in any capacity by the Hydro?

A-- No, sir, I never worked for Hydro a day in my life.

Q-- You never got any pay? A-- I never got any pay, I didn't do anything for them, I worked for the people.

Q-- And you haven't been paid your expenses?

A-- No, they haven't paid my expenses, I think there is a collection being taken up to help out a little; although they would willingly have given \$50 apiece to enter into a lawsuit, yet they don't want to give anything now.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: Who is this capital investment charged against?

MR. POPE: I presume, to the cost of the Chippewa work.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: For the whole thing?

MR. POPE: I don't see anything else.

COMMISSIONER R. A. ROSS: What would be the cost during the time you supplied water?

MR. POPE: I can't tell off-hand, but a considerable sum of money; it started with a few wells, and a few carts, but increased.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would it be \$100,000?

MR. POPE: No, perhaps not.

MR. GABY: It would depend on what wells went dry, and when they got water, some went dry for a certain period, and came back again. I think the haulage cost us \$15,000 a year.

WITNESS: When I appeared before the Hydro -- I said I had never done anything for the Hydro, but I appeared before the Hydro on behalf of other people many times.

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MR. MEYER:

May I read what I have to say?

THE CHAIRMAN: How long is it?

A-- I am speaking for the Stamford School Board, I am a teacher there, and have been asked to give their point of view on the assessment question. I would like to draw attention to the historical reason for amending section 12(a) of the Power Commission Act, exempting Hydro from taxes except on land values. I do not think that has been brought out.

When the Commission began buying land in large quantities in the Township of Stamford for the purpose of constructing its power canal, it became evident that the revenues of the Township would be seriously diminished. I wrote Sir Adam Beck setting forth those facts. In reply he telephoned me, asking for a deputation from the Stamford Board of Trade and Council, to meet him in Toronto, and he stated that he had in mind a solution which he thought would be satisfactory to us.

When he met us in Toronto, he stated that he was prepared to introduce, at the next session of the Legislature, legislation making it possible for the Commission to pay taxes on land values.

At this time, no mention had been made of purchasing any private power company at the Falls. Sir Adam assured us that he was introducing the legislation to protect us from loss of taxes. The amendment was passed, therefore, for the express purpose of protecting our interests, and not for the purpose of depriving us of millions of dollars of assessment, as has been maintained in the Courts by the Hydro Commission. If the Commission intended to use the amendment for the purpose of depriving us of our assessments on the Ontario Power Co., and the Electrical Development Company, then we were deceived as to the reason for introducing the amendment.





It has been stated here very frequently that the Courts have proved that the Commission is not liable for anything but land values on the Ontario Power Company; I am not so sure of that, Mr. Chairman.

The Commission has appealed against its assessment every year, either in Stamford or Niagara Falls, since the purchase of the Ontario Power Company. We maintain that the question should be settled by the Legislature, and that the annual litigation is a useless waste of public money, because any decision of the Courts can be reversed by new Legislation. In fact, our money is being used by the Commission to secure judicial decisions against ourselves.

A decision was given against Niagara Falls by the Ontario Railway & Municipal Board, but further appeal was forestalled by private agreement between the Commission and the City. On the other hand, when the judge of Welland County gave his decision in favour of Stamford, Sir William Hearst, then premier, wrote me that he had consulted the law officers of the Crown, and that, in their opinion, the decision of the judge was correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: You would have appealed if it hadn't been settled? A-- No doubt, the City would have appealed if it hadn't come to a settlement.

Q-- And the County Judge decided one way, and the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board the other, and you came to a settlement?

A-- Under these conditions, it is impossible to tell what the decision of the higher Courts would be. We claim, however, that it is not a matter for the Courts to settle, but that the Legislature should protect our interests by unambiguous legislation. If this was to go to the Court, there is no telling what the decision would be; we don't want it to go to the Courts, we have a Legislature to settle it, and



an agreement can be made between the Township of Stamford and the Commission.

We do not ask for any assessments beyond land values on any works or extension created by the Commission. We do claim that the properties of the private power companies bought by the Commission should be liable on the same basis as though they had remained private companies. Otherwise, the Township of Stamford will become bankrupt. We understand that the City of Toronto, and other municipalities, continue to collect taxes on the Grand Trunk Railway property, and we should be accorded the same treatment.

MR. POPE: No, the Railway pays on other than land and station buildings.

THE CHAIRMAN: They pay so much a mile.

MR. POPE: If you have any land tax in the municipality, it is deducted from your share of the taxes, it is imposed by the Province and is given to the municipality.

WITNESS: The point we take is, that the Grand Trunk continues to pay as if it had not been taken over by the Government, and we will be satisfied if Hydro will continue to pay as if it had not been taken over by the Government.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is a good precedent for you?

A-- We think so.

An amendment should be passed making the Commission liable for taxation on purchased power plants on the same basis as though these plants had remained under private control. Probably a better remedy would be to pass an Act making all publicly owned or controlled public utility works liable to the same assessments as privately owned public utility works.

Q-- Isn't there something to be said for having the Province share in these taxes, if it is imposed, a great deal







is given to the Township of Stamford, because it has all these plants within its limits. I think that Niagara Falls may want to extend its boundaries a little further and take that which you would get? A-- We would have to fight for that.

A-- There is no part of the Province where conditions are just the same as they are here, and where you would get so much, as it were, by chance, A-- Are we not entitled to the natural advantages of our position?

A-- Under the general rule prevailing throughout the Province, you are entitled to assess, and they are only excepted by the Legislature.

A-- With regard to special claims to generous treatment. There is the usual claim that we have a right to benefit from the natural advantages of our location. In addition, there is the fact that the Commission could not have gone into business had not the monopoly of the Canadian Niagara Power Co. been broken by W. M. German, at the instigation of citizens of Niagara Falls and Stamford; had not this monopoly been broken all local power development would have been under private ownership, and the Niagara Falls and Stamford would have retained the right to all power development on the full value of the works constructed.

We are being penalized, therefore, for enabling the Hydro Electric Commission to come into existence; and the professed policy of the Commission is to scatter our power broadcast over the Province.

For those reasons, we think we should get a little special consideration, even though these assessments are rather high.

A-- The whole thing is in the hands of the Legislature, and that is where you will have to bring your pressure; it is not in the hands of any Commission.

A-- We had no intention of bringing the matter up until we



found yesterday that the matter had been brought up, and we thought that if we didn't take it up we would be in the position of letting it go by default. We thought your Commission might recommend action along those lines of reviewing the whole policy.

MR. POPE: What position do you hold, are you a member of the council? A-- No, I am just the Principal of the High School, and I am speaking for the High School Board.

Q-- Do you lay down a proposition which you expect the Council to follow? Who would make the agreement, if one was made? A-- The Council.

Q-- You are laying down a proposition for the Council to follow.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are laying down the proposition that the Legislature should take up the matter and amend the Act, so that the property will be assessed differently. They want the law changed so there will not be any agreement necessary. A-- If the Council makes an agreement, that settles the matter, otherwise we want action by the Legislature.

MR. POPE: There seems to be a misapprehension. Mr. Stokes was telling me that we had robbed the people of some rights they originally had given to them by our Legislature.

COMMISSIONER HANBY: Didn't you?

MR. POPE: No, sir. The Municipal Act, which was enforced long before the Hydro was created, was an Act which exempted municipal and Government owned property from taxation of any kind.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is hard to say who does own Hydro property.

MR. POPE: <sup>was</sup> It is under that section that Hydro



was doing business. The canal was started here, and a large amount of land was being acquired, and these people in the township of Stamford, in a letter sent to Toronto, said, "We are going to suffer because you are taking away a large quantity of land that pays school taxes, and the remainder of the people will have to pay these taxes; therefore, the Municipal Act was arranged, at the request of the Hydro Commission, by which we had the right, as a municipal owned utility, to pay taxes on land.

WITNESS: They followed that up by taking over the Power Companies, and diverting from us far greater land assessment.

MR. POPE: Your people voted, and asked us to take them over. (Voices: No. No. )

MR. STOKES: I might draw your attention to the fact, that the city of Niagara Falls is the only city in the British Empire that does not control their own water-front, it is controlled entirely in Toronto, by the Queen Victoria N.F. Park Commission, and, although the electors of Toronto recently voted against giving away the control of their own water-front, they ask us to permit the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commission, with headquarters in Toronto, to have the control of our water-front. Across the river they have a population of 150,000, and on this side of the river we have 15,000; it is our birth right to control the river-front; they do control the water-front on that side, but on this side we don't.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the park owned by the city?

A-- The people control the water franchises.

Q-- They are controlled by the State.

A-- I understand that they are assessed.

MR. LUDY: Just along the industrial front.

MR. STOKES: The strongest Hydro town in Canada.





defeated the Hydro by-law. The city of Niagara Falls has laid down -- but the township of Stamford went. The city of Niagara Falls can't take a quart of water out of the Niagara River without the permission of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commission.

MR. GABY: We have nothing to do with taking water out of the river, it is controlled by an International treaty which provides that domestic waters can be taken from the Niagara river. And, as far as the Park Commission is concerned, that commission is entirely controlled by the Provincial Government. As to whether they should take over the control of the park and use it for park purposes, that is for the Park Board. As a matter of fact, Hydro does not control any of your water.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gaby is quite right, it is controlled by the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commission.

MR. STOKES: It is controlled in Toronto.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, it is controlled here, in the park.

MR. STOKES: The 'main gun' lives in Toronto.

I believe Niagara Falls has a dollars worth of gold fish in the pond.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lundy has handed to me a letter, addressed to the clerk of the township of Stamford, by the city assessor of Niagara Falls, New York, dated February 6th 1923, which reads as follows:

February 6th 1923.

Thomas R. Stokes,  
Clerk & Treasurer,  
Township of Stamford.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your request for information regarding assessments in this City, I beg to advise you that the Total Assessed Value of the City of Niagara Falls, N.Y., for 1922, was \$104,909,000.



" The Total Assessment of the Niagara Falls Power Company within the municipal boundaries of this City for 1922 was \$31,898,010.

As far as I am able to judge at this time the total assessment in this City is divided into three parts: 1/3 to Niagara Falls Power Company, 1/3 to all other Manufacturing Corporations, and 1/3 to residence property.

Yours very truly,

(sgd) E.E. Clancy. "

And it is stated that the tax rate per \$1,000 is \$18.18, that is, a little over 18 mills on the dollar; that does not include County taxes, which would bring it up to 25 mills.

The total tax paid by the Niagara Falls Power Company for the year is \$601,487.16; and the total taxes \$2,250,084.90

So, they have done there exactly what Stamford wants here.

MR. GABY: The interesting thing in connection with that is, I would like to have a comparison made of the rates the ordinary resident pays for power in Niagara Falls, N.Y., and the rates that are paid by the ordinary resident of the township of Stamford, and the city of Niagara Falls. You will probably find out that the cost of lining in that municipality is three times as much as it is here in the municipality of Niagara Falls. In other words, if you make that comparison, you will see that a great deal more is paid for light in the municipality of Niagara Falls, N.Y., than the difference between the amount of \$75,000 we pay each year for taxes here, and the amount paid there.

THE CHAIRMAN: It must increase the cost of light and power.

MR. LUNDY: I might say that we/ were offered light and power





from the Canadian Niagara concern at much less than from the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does Hydro pay taxes on the other side of the river?

MR. GABY: No, we have no property there.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have no transmission lines?

MR. GABY: We have no property whatever on the American side.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where do you stop?

MR. GABY: At the boundary line, for the contract which we have with the Niagara, Lockport & Ontario Power Company.

MR. POPE: Hydro has no jurisdiction outside of the Province.

MR. R.T. JEFFERY: What price was he offered power for, by the Niagara Falls Power Company?

MR. LUNDY: That is, under certain conditions.

MR. JEFFERY: At what rate?

MR. LUNDY: The rate was \$11.50

MR. JEFFERY: What were the conditions?

MR. LUNDY: They are in connection with the assessment, which I am not at liberty to divulge.

MR. JEFFERY: A rate, without the surrounding conditions, means nothing.

THE CHAIRMAN: A low rate might be a high one.

MR. JEFFERY: It might be \$30., for all we know.

MR. DIXON: In regard to the assessment at Niagara Falls; while we are ruled partly out of court, Mr. Pope has said that the Commission are willing to pay more than the law allows, but the fact of the matter is, that they made the law before Niagara Falls knew, and, as a result of that law, we are actually paying \$30 directly for power, more than the city of London is paying. Now, sir, the city of Niagara



Falls, and the township of Stamford, are the only municipalities that have paid more than cost for power, in the whole system. Isn't that so?

MR. GABY: No, sir, you have not paid any more than cost, you pay exactly cost.

MR. DIXON: In the Agreement made between the Ontario Power Company, and the Hydro Electric Power Commission, it says, in Clause 27: " The Commission agrees it will not supply power at less than 60,000 volts, at the price less than herein provided; at 60,000 volts, with the cost of transmission added.

In the original agreement between the Ontario Power Company, and the Hydro Electric Power Commission, they were to get power at \$9.40 in less than 25,000 lots; in more than that quantity at \$9, and at 12,000 volts --

MR. GABY: That is right.

MR. DIXON: Take 60,000 volts, there would be a dollar added to the cost; still this agreement says that anybody that buys power must pay at the 60,000 volt rate, although the city of Niagara Falls and the township of Stamford buy power at the 12,000 volt rate.

MR. GABY: In answer to that. That applied to entering into competition in supplying power to private individuals within the territory in which the Ontario Power Company was already supplying private customers, but it never did apply to municipal partners in the scheme. All partnership municipalities were treated alike, they got power at actual cost, whether 12,000 or 110,000 volts.

That clause is interpreted by the Commission as referring to competition in a given district. In 1917 that did not obtain at all, because the municipalities became the owners of the Ontario Power Company, and there has never been, as far as these



municipalities are concerned, any different policy than to charge at the actual cost of supplying the power, under the conditions there.

THE CHAIRMAN: When was the Agreement made?

MR. GABY: The old Power Agreement was made in 1908, with the Ontario Power Company.

MR. DIXON: This Agreement says, "person or corporation", and I took it up with Mr. Jeffery, and he admitted that this was so, and there was an adjustment come to with Niagara Falls in regard to the matter.

MR. JEFFERY: The cost of power, to my knowledge, to Niagara Falls, has been adjusted the same as in respect to any municipality.

MR. DIXON: Not according to your statement to Mr. Coo and I.

MR. GABY: As a matter of fact, it has been adjusted with the Municipality, as the books will show.

MR. DIXON: You broke faith with the Ontario Power Company, if you did that. There is the agreement that was made.

MR. GABY: That agreement was made with respect to competition with private individuals in the district in which they are operating, and had nothing to do with partner municipalities.

MR. DIXON: A little while ago we had a sleet storm and half the Province were out of power for a little while, and the Chairman of the Industrial Committee thought it would be a good idea to advertise the fact that owing to our location the possibility of being without power was minimized. That was a perfectly legitimate proposition.

We got a letter from Mr. Pope.

THE CHAIRMAN: That was in 1922?

MR. DIXON: April, 12th 1922. The letter reads as





follows:

"

190 University Avenue,  
Toronto.

April 12th, 1922.

The Chairman, Industrial Committee,  
Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Dear Sir:-

Our attention has recently been directed to an advertisement placed in one of the Newspapers of the Province signed 'Chairman, Industrial Committee, Niagara Falls, Canada.' In this advertisement your industrial committee makes capital of the misfortune in connection with the interruption of service to the Municipalities of Hamilton, Toronto, Brantford, London, Woodstock, Windsor, Chatham, Guelph and all other Municipalities served by Hydro, pointing out interruptions to power service which were liable to occur in any Municipality not located at the immediate source of supply, as in the City of Niagara Falls.

The City of Niagara Falls is a partner with the other Municipalities in the Niagara District, and we believe, as a partner, should do everything possible to assist the partnership scheme instead of injuring the scheme by advertisements of the nature mentioned above.

We have always received the whole-hearted co-operation of the officials of your City and it is difficult for us to believe that the advertisement in question was published with the knowledge and approval of the officials of Niagara Falls.

We are merely bringing this matter to your attention as we believe the Industrial Committee of Niagara Falls should co-operate with the other Hydro



"Municipalities on the Niagara System in making the Hydro scheme a success, rather than making capital out of the misfortune of the other municipalities, whose geographical location necessitates their receiving their power supply over long distance transmission lines, which, at times, are subject to damage from sleet storms and other causes.

Yours truly,

(sgd) W.F. Pope.

Secretary. "

I would like to know whether it was the Commission, or Mr. Pope, who wrote that letter?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pope is the Commission.

MR. DIXON: I think he is. Did the Commission authorize that letter?

MR. POPE: I may say, for the benefit of Mr. Dixon, that I never wrote a letter in my life without the authority and direction of the Commission. I am not the Commission, I am simply the tail of a big kite.

MR. DIXON: In regard to this tax business; it does appear to me, that when the Park Commission granted the three separate Power Companies rights in the Park, to develop power, and charged a rental therefor of 50 cents per horse-power, for the power developed, and specified that there would be no other power companies that would get power at less than rental, then your Hydro Electric Power Commission comes along and puts your work within the Park, on which they pay no rental; that it is a breach of faith, and British Institutions don't act that way as a rule. The British Government have recently fixed up their debt with the United States just because they wanted to save their credit. What is the attitude of the Commission towards the Canadian Niagara Power Company, when they have to pay a rental, and have





invested a large amount of money in developing their power system, and then to be cut from under? It looks to me that it is not the way British people should do.

HON. MR. CARMICHAEL: Who does not pay rental?

MR. DIXON: The new development doesn't pay rental.

THE CHAIRMAN: It pays rental for the water.

MR. DIXON: At Queenston.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commission control a strip of land 66 ft. along the water front. You will find that the Park Commission will charge for every gallon of water taken from the Canal by the Power Commission.

MR. DIXON: Yes, because that is the old agreement with the Ontario Power Company, and they pay a rental for water they take at Queenston, which is in the <sup>Park.</sup>

THE CHAIRMAN: They will be charged for it.

MR. POPE: It is not in the <sup>park</sup> the Chippawa development is not in the ~~Park~~; it is in the township of Niagara.

THE CHAIRMAN: On conditions made by the Buffalo Co.

MR. GABY: You are quite correct, the Park Commission has 66 ft. nearly all the way unbroken, except a section this side of Niagara Falls, but the section we are operating over is not under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission, as it was known when these agreements were made; it is now, with the extension of the park, it is Park property so far as the Hydro Electric Power Commission is concerned; Mr. Dixon knows as well as I do that the Hydro Electric Power Commission is a trustee of the municipality of Niagara Falls, and every other municipality, and, as far as the Hydro Electric Power Commission is concerned, we expect to pay a rental; it has not been determined, but we expect to pay a rental in the same manner.



MR. DIXON: They are to determine the question of the agreement with the Canadian Niagara Power Company.

MR. J.C. GROOM: There is a 66 ft. strip from the edge of the bank back, that belongs to the Government, and is under the control of J.H. Johnston, from lake to lake. For instance, if a man took a contract to build a bridge across the river -- which will soon take place, at the Michigan Central -- and if 5 men were employed by the contractor, that J.H. Johnston didn't want on that work, he would say to the foreman, get those men off the property, and they would have to go. Are you aware that a funeral procession can't travel on this boulevard, taking a man to his last resting place? It is time that something was done with J.H. Johnston, who has so much to do with this front to-day.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else who wishes to be heard?

MR. STOKES: Yes, Mr. Smith.

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MR. SMITH.

I think we have covered the ground pretty well. I suppose you want me to introduce the subject?

THE CHAIRMAN: Not at all. A-- I don't think there is anything left for me to say., I was Chairman of the committee appointed with respect to the dry wells; and I have been subpoenaed here. We made several trips to Toronto to see the Commission, and Mr. Pope, and I must say we were never treated more gentlemanly than we were over there. I want you to understand that we didn't run away with a big bargain, we worked hard for it.

Somebody has inferred that Mr. Boulter and I must have got some money from Hydro. I would like to state right



here that there was never a cent asked for, and never a cent gotten. I think Mr. Pope, Mr. Carmichael, and all, will bear me out in that. We are perfectly satisfied with what we got, we got 80 per cent. along the Front, and got the Hydro Commission to dig wells in the country for the farmers. We were not even paid our expenses yet by our friends we helped out.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is a collection being taken up.

A-- It has already been taken up, and didn't come anywhere near the mark.

Q-- Do you know anything about the farms there? Does Hydro farm any land itself?

A-- I understand they run a lot of farms out there.

Q-- Do you know anything about that?

A-- Not particularly. I live around there.

Q-- Those farms do not appear to be the most profitable part of the Hydro undertaking. A-- I imagine not.

Q-- How is it? A-- I don't know. I must not throw any reflections, but I don't think they ever put a real farmer on the job yet. It is a big proposition to take hold of a lot of farms and make them pay.

Q-- Are they being run under one management?

A-- I believe they have rented a lot of them now, but they are under one management.

COMMISSIONER HALEY: How do you think Calvert managed the Larkin farm? A -- He did well for Larkin.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know of any unnecessary expense incurred in connection with those farms??

A-- No, I really don't.

Q-- What is done with the produce raised on them?

A-- They sell it in the ordinary way, ship it.

Q-- Who is in charge of the farms, Mr. Pope?

MR. POPE: Mr. Stevenson.





THE CHAIRMAN: Under whose department does it come?

MR. POPE: Under the Chief Engineer.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Allen would report to you, Mr. Gaby?

MR. GABY: No.

MR. POPE: In order to maintain the lands we have on our hands, we have to keep them in order.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have not been accused of making any considerable profit.

MR. POPE: No. These are farms taken over from the Ontario Power Company, hundreds of acres, and in purchasing the land for the canal it was necessary to get land on both sides, otherwise we would have to put a bridge over for each owner. There was a great quantity of land in the possession of the Hydro, there were orchards, vineyards, small fruits, etc., and during the war everybody was clamoring for production, to speed-up, and we made use of all the land in the way of agricultural and fruit production. It is difficult to operate that land because we don't know just what the necessity will be for its use in connection with the construction of the canal.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: The new canal?

MR. POPE: The new canal. We rented the land wherever we could to advantage, and we are doing that still.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you find it more profitable to rent it than work it? A-- Yes.

Q-- Have you done anything to improve the land?

A-- I would like to say that the increased value of that land, since we took it over, in the improvements put on it, and the manner in which we have attempted to maintain it, would more than off-set the shrinkage in the operations.

Q-- Do you pay taxes? A-- Yes, we have to pay taxes to Stamford township.

Q-- Is there anything you would like to say about the



farms, Mr. Smith? ~~---~~

MR. SMITH: I don't think there is anything.

I don't know anybody who could start on these farms, the way they were bought up, and who could make a success of them. They may, in time. It would be a hard thing to organize a big tract of land like that, with one part of the land raising fruit, and another raising wheat, and so on.

Q-- That is mixed farming? A-- It is an immense piece of land, they have a clay belt at both ends, and a sand belt in between.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: What about the land increasing in value? A-- I don't like to contradict Mr. Pope.

Q-- Have you increased the assessment on them?

A-- I believe not.

MR. STOKES: Yes.

MR. POPE: Do you not think we were warranted in maintaining these lands, rather than let them go without being maintained? A-- Most decidedly.

Q-- They increase the assessment on them all the time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lundy, you have been very reticent, do you wish to say anything?

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MR. LUNDY.

Only one thing you have overlooked. We made an arrangement with these companies in 1903 and 1904, for a fixed assessment, and from 1904 up until 1924, we must lose, under the Assessment Act, at least \$60,000,000 in the valuations. We would lose this portion, under the Assessment Act, under ordinary conditions, and at our regular mill rate, it would amount to a considerable amount each year. We were assessed last year for \$3,744,000, I think it was, and in that there is some place around \$500,000 of the





Canadian Niagara, and the O.P., and the Electric Development Company, which leaves the actual residents to raise six-sevenths of all the taxes. In connection with the letter I gave you, from Niagara Falls, New York, they only raise one-third. We have laid water mains, etc., and have been paying that amount of taxes for a number of years, and were looking forward, naturally, when we would be able to assess these companies in the ordinary way. We ask you to consider that we have lost those taxes for a number of years, and we should be protected in the future.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything further?

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R.M. EFFRICK.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where do you live?

A-- In the township of Stamford.

Q-- Were you employed in connection with the Hydro farms?

A-- I was.

Q-- When was that? A-- 1918.

Q-- In what capacity were you employed?

A-- I was a labourer when I first started in with them.

Q-- Who employed you? A-- Mr. Purcell.

Q-- Who is Mr. Purcell? A-- He is the man who had the farm department in hand.

Q-- What was his business? A-- I suppose he was the man who ran the farm department.

Q-- Had he had any farming experience?

A-- I don't know.

Q-- What was his business before he was put in charge of the farms? A-- I understood he had charge of the --

Q-- Rural lines? A-- Rural lines.

COMMISSIONER HALEY: A civil engineer? A-- Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you aware whether he had had any farming experience or not? A-- I don't know.



Q-- What did your work consist of?      A-- When I first went to work for them I was building fences.

Q-- I suppose there were other persons employed besides yourself?      A-- Yes.

Q-- Did those people know anything about farming operations?      A-- Yes.

Q-- Those persons who were employed understood farming?

A-- There were farmers living on the farms, who had been living on the farms.

Q-- What do you say as to the way in which these farms were looked after?      A-- Well, sometimes I didn't think it was economic.

Q-- What, for instance?      A-- The hired help, they came from Toronto, men sent over from Toronto, I suppose they came from Toronto, sent here by the Commission, I would call it out for two or three weeks holidays, sent out from the city.

Q-- Perhaps they were taking the rest cure?

A-- May be.

Q-- Were any of the officials of the Hydro here?

MR. POPE:      I had some berries, and they charged twice as much as I could get them for in the city.

THE CHAIRMAN: You said you didn't think they were economic in some things -- what things?

A-- The sheep industry, I didn't think it was a very paying proposition.

Q-- Who took charge of the sheep?      A-- Principally, in the end, a man by the name of Warren.

Q-- Was he a shepherd?      A-- He was no farmer.

Q-- Didn't he understand how to look after the sheep? What made you think he was not a farmer? A-- He didn't understand looking after the sheep. Where the mistake was made, I think, was in buying the sheep.



Q-- They bought sheep to put on the farm? A-- Yes.

Q-- Did they prove profitable? A-- No, sir, couldn't.

Q-- Did they give too much for them, and sell them for too little? A-- I guess that was it. A good many of them died.

Q-- So the sheep were rather a losing proposition?

A-- That is the way I look at it.

Q-- You think the sheep should not have been bought, and that they should have been looked after better when they were bought, is that it? A-- I think they were a poor class of sheep when they were bought.

Q-- What breed were they? A-- I don't know -- all breeds. There were some very good sheep, and some poor ones. I don't know who bought them, but they were turned in on the farms.

Q-- Did they produce much wool, did they make much profit out of wool? A-- I don't know what they made out of the wool.

Q-- What other things were there that were not managed very well? Did they buy any cattle? A-- Yes.

Q-- How did they turn out? A-- I don't know anything about the financial end of it, but I would judge, from the way the cattle were handled, they would have to sell them pretty well to make them pay.

Q-- Perhaps they did? A-- May be they did.

Q-- Did they sell milk? A-- Not that I know of.

Q-- Did they get any milk from them? A-- Not much. They were principally beef cattle, steers, and stock.

Q-- Did they exhibit them at the fairs at all?

A-- No, sir, not to my knowledge.

Q-- Did they take any prizes? A-- Not to my knowledge.

Q-- What else did they go into? Horses?

A-- Yes, they bought horses.





Q-- What about the horses, were they better than the sheep or cattle?      A-- The horses that they bought, I thought they compared pretty favourably with the sheep.

Q-- Were they trotting horses?      A-- No, sir, farm horses.

Q-- You say that some of the sheep were good, and some were bad -- did that apply to the horses?

A-- I think so.

Q-- Were they baulky?      A-- No, weren't baulky -- they had poor feet.

Q-- Were they not shod as well as they should have been? What was the matter with their feet?      A-- They weren't good feet, in the first place, and they needed proper attention, which they didn't get.

Q-- Were they not properly attended to? Did they run out in the field?      A-- Sometimes they ran out, and sometimes kept them in the stable.

Q-- Did they work any on the canal?

A-- Not on the canal, on the farms.

Q-- Did they work them off the farm at all?      Who worked them on the farm?      A-- The farmers, and hired men.

Q-- Are they there yet?      A-- I can't say whether the horses are there yet or not.

Q-- What breeding were they?      A-- I guess, all breeds, some good horses, and some were not.

Q-- Did they sell any of the horses? Did they raise any colts?      A-- No. I understand Mr. Stevenson has disposed of some horses, I don't know, that is after I left.

Q-- Would you advise them selling them?

A-- Yes, whenever anything was said to me I said they had better get rid of them.

Q-- That advice was followed?      A-- I guess they got rid of them, I don't know where they are.



Q-- What other live stock did they have? Any hogs?

A-- Yes.

Q-- What breed of hogs did they have? Did they go in for bacon hogs? A-- I don't know what breed.

Q-- Could you tell by looking at them? Were they red, black, or white? A-- Principally white.

Q-- They may have been Yorks. May be good bacon hogs. What do you think about them, were they taken good care of?

A-- No, sir.

Q-- In what way were they not? A-- I always said they weren't fed properly.

Q-- What did they feed them? A-- Fed them pretty nearly everything.

Q-- They had variety, anyway. Did they fatten up? Were they the kind of hogs you could fatten well?

A-- They didn't fatten very well.

Q-- You know it doesn't do to get them too fat, they make better bacon when not too fat. A-- They didn't get too full there.

Q-- Would you say they were too thin?

A-- Yes, a good many of them.

Q-- Did they raise any young pigs? A-- I think they did, at the north end of the farm, Mr. Misener raised some.

Q-- You think, on the whole, the hogs were unprofitable?

A-- I do.

Q-- Did they exhibit any of them at the fairs?

A-- Not that I know of.

Q-- Anything further about the pigs?

A-- No, not that I remember.

Q-- You think the raising of hogs was an unprofitable branch of your work? A-- Yes, sir, not profitable.

Q-- What other stock would they raise? Chickens?

A-- I don't know that they bought any chickens; I know





they bought some geese. Turned out about the same as the other stock.

Q-- Was there any line of livestock they bought that turned out profitable? A-- I wouldn't think so.

Q-- If you had had the management of the farm yourself, what would you have done different from what was done? What was the matter there that they lost so much?

A-- I attribute it to poor management.

Q-- That is, not having an experienced man in charge, is that it? A-- Yes, not only that, but the man didn't have a free hand to do as he thought he should.

Q-- Why was that, was that the fault of the superintendent?

A-- I don't know if it was the fault of the superintendent or the Commission.

Q-- If an experienced farmer had been put in charge, he might have made a much better showing than was made?

A-- I don't think it made any difference what kind of farmer, if the heads over him wouldn't let him do it.

Q-- He should have had a free hand? A-- Yes.

Q-- You think probably that the man at the head was not a competent head? A-- I wouldn't say that, but I would say he didn't use good judgment.

Q-- Was there any equipment purchased that was not necessary, or was it all necessary? A-- I think it was all used, more or less, some of it was used very little.

Q-- Was it well cared for? A-- Fairly well cared for, he tried to care for it as well as he could.

Q-- Were there plenty of sheds to store it in?

A-- Yes, if there was not sheds, they made them.

Q-- Who did the purchasing of the stock?

A-- I can't say.

Q-- The superintendent? A-- I presume he did, I don't know.



Q-- Who was in charge of the fruit farms?

A-- Mr. Baker was in charge.

Q-- What do you say, were they properly operated?

A-- It is a little out of my line of work.

Q-- You wouldn't want to pass an opinion on that?

A-- No.

Q-- Who gave orders for the purchase of stock, and equipment, do you know that?

A-- I don't know.

Q-- Can you tell us anything else about the operation of the farms, that would have any bearing on the question as to whether they were properly managed or not?

A-- I don't know as I could.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pope, do you wish to ask any questions?

MR. POPE: Q-- How long were you there?

A-- About 18 or 20 months.

Q-- That was in 1918 and 1919? A-- Yes.

Q-- What time did you start? A-- The last week in May, 1918, and quit in the fourth week in February, 1919.

Q-- Was there any of the stock sold off at the time you left? A-- No, I don't think so.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suppose, Mr. Gaby, your books would show how much you paid, and how much you got for the stock?

MR. GABY: Yes, the books will show, a complete record is kept of the operations of the farms.

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MR. PURCELL:

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Purcell, you were in charge of rural lines, and then went to the farms?

MR. PURCELL TO MR. EFFRICK:

Q-- Mr. Effrick; with reference to the sheep, you were in charge, on the farms, for awhile, were you not, and had care of the sheep; you were over Warren? A-- Yes.

Q-- If the sheep were not properly cared for, that would really be your duty to draw my attention to it, wouldn't it?

A-- Your attention was drawn to it quite frequently, when sheep were dying continually.

Q-- Do you remember particularly how many sheep died?

A-- No, I don't.

Q-- Was it many, or few? A-- I wouldn't be prepared to say how many.

Q-- Was it not true that some dogs worried the sheep some time in the night, near the slaughter house, and Lundy's Lane, and there were two sheep killed? A-- I know the dogs worried the sheep.

THE CHAIRMAN: You ought to know how many died, was it 20 or 30? A-- I wouldn't say how many died through the dogs worrying them. It was only a few, we only knew of one time that the dogs worried the sheep.

MR. PURCELL: The dogs were in twice, worrying the sheep. There was a dog in the orchard worrying the sheep?

A-- I think you are right.

Q-- And I authorized <sup>you</sup> to offer a reward for any dog shot on the property, because we were entirely within our rights as regards the law, and one dog was shot on the property, but got away; it left a blood trail.

THE CHAIRMAN: How many sheep, that were worried by the dogs, died?

MR. PURCELL: I would think there were a dozen or more,





we have not as elaborate records in connection with the operations on the farms; as in connection with the operations on the canal; no farming operation will warrant doing it, but we had notes, which were transferred from the office at Bridge Street to the farm in a bundle, and I imagine we could get some of those records.

The point I am trying to bring out is this: there may have been cases where sheep were lost due to worrying by dogs, because we were troubled with dogs; but as far as the quality of the sheep is concerned, the purchases were made in consultation with a veterinary surgeon, who looked over the flock and passed upon them, and said they were O.K. before we purchased.

As far as the horses are concerned, Mr. Bffrick, was there more than one team that had bad feet, that is, the sorrel team? The big grays had soft feet, but they weren't bad?

A-- No, I wouldn't call them bad.

Q-- They were really fair feet? A-- Yes.

Q-- In other words, the horses' feet were plenty good enough for working on the farm property?

A-- Yes, if they kept them on the farm, and off the road.

Q-- We kept them off the stone road?

A-- That big brown horse --

Q-- Of course, he was the third horse for a three-horse team, and was not taken on the roads.

As far as the feeding of swine is concerned, I don't think you had any swine under your care? A-- No.

Q-- All you know is from going through where they were being fed, and cared for; and that one herd of swine would be on the fruit property? A-- Yes.

Q-- In what way were you hampered, as far as exercising your own judgment in the operation of the farm is concerned? Was it help, or equipment? A-- We had lots of equipment,



as far as machinery was concerned, but we were hampered with help.

Q-- On account of the kind? A-- On account of the kind.

Q-- In 1918, we were obliged to get what help we could through the employment bureaus, at St. Catharines, and other places, and we were endeavouring to produce. There was an effort on the part of the Provincial Government to have the farmers use all the help they could get from the cities. We even took high school boys over here, and had the high school teacher helping us.

THE CHAIRMAN: What about the men the witness has referred to, who came from Toronto?

MR. PURCELL: The city men Mr. Effrick refers to, are a bunch of men who came to us from the city, from the Provincial Employment Bureau. There were only three men from our own staff.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did they come for their holidays?

MR. PURCELL: Mr. Effrick, you remember Damer -- the big, long, Englishman -- he was not a shirker? Did Jacques work for you? A-- Yes.

Q-- He was not a shirker. And we had a bunch of farmerettes.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: How many farmerettes did you have?

MR. PURCELL: The maximum number at the Camp at one time was 22, who were under the charge of a Camp Mother who was sent by the Y.W.C.A.

As far as the help was concerned, I want to lay particular emphasis on that. We went to considerable trouble to get three or four good farmers, through the District Agricultural Representative. Five young men were brought here, who were experienced farmers, and we were only able to pay the ordinary farm rate as paid in other parts of the country; and just across the fence they were paying high wages, on the canal work, for ordinary labour, and the natural result was that





when we paid these men, they would disappear, and we would find them working on the canal, making as much in two weeks as they could make on the farm in a month and a half. That was one of the great difficulties we had, right from the start, was the question of labour.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Too high wages on the canal?

A-- No, too low on the farm. That was the difficulty we had right along in connection with the operations on the farms, until 1921, when we began to be able to get some reliable farmers.

THE CHAIRMAN: What experience had you in connection with farm work? A-- I am not a farmer myself.

Q-- Were you ever a farmer? A-- I was raised in a small town, and we always had horses and pigs.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Can you milk cows?

A-- I can, I don't like it.

The point I am trying to make is that my experience is largely in talking with farmers all over this Province, during ten years' experience on rural power work.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is not sufficient training.

A-- I am quite certain of it now, why in the devil didn't they tell me before.

MR. GABY: Mr. Pureell's duties were more in the nature of supervising, and he obtained competent men under him to carry on the farming operations.

THE CHAIRMAN: He does not seem to have had efficient help.

MR. GABY: As far as the help is concerned, it was very difficult to get farm labourers.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: Did you make any money on the farms?

MR. GABY: It is a question of degree, what you mean, I think, on the whole, the Commission will make a profit as far as the proposition is concerned; as the evidence will



show, the Commission is renting properties to-day, owing to the way they have been maintained, which they otherwise would not have been able to rent. I wouldn't say that we made money on the farming operations.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may make money, when selling the land again.

MR. GABY: Yes, on account of maintaining the properties in the condition we have, they are salable, which otherwise wouldn't have been the case. I can illustrate that by asking those who are here. If it had not been for certain improvements made on the property, which have been made, we wouldn't get anything at all, whereas we get \$400 to-day as rental.

MR. PURCELL: Mr. Efrick, did you help in the clearing up of the Peerless property, behind Mrs. Homer Dixon?

WITNESS: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: What stock has been sold?

MR. PURCELL: All the stock was sold in 1920, and the early part of 1921.

Q-- The farms are rented? A-- Not all. We worked this year about 300 acres. There is probably, off-hand, around 800 acres rented.

Q-- How do you work the land, without stock?

A-- There are no fences, the Construction Department tore the fences down; that is what one of the difficulties was, as the Construction Department proceeded with its work, they took down the fences. The dump formed the other barrier to prevent the cattle from coming out of the disposal grounds, we put cattle in there, but some of them were bumptious animals and would climb up the side of the dump, where there was footing, and people who were making a short-cut across there would leave the gate open and allow our animals to get out. We had to transfer some of the animals up to the section



which Mr. Effrick had charge of, and we transferred some to the Queenston end. It was our idea that we would gain something by keeping the animals grazing there, and thereby maintain our properties, to the extent of keeping down the woods. But we found it didn't work.

That was true, to some extent, in connection with the sheep. You can understand the difficulty in operating such an assembly of property.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think you were farming under difficulties.

Q-- Did you lose some sheep because they were so near the works? A-- We lost a beautiful ram that we paid \$90, or \$100, for.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Is Mr. Stevenson here?

MR. STEVENSON:

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard what has been said about these farms? A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- Can you add to the knowledge we have of the farms?

A-- I quite agree with everything Mr. Purcell has said up to the year 1920, previous to that I didn't have a great deal of experience. I went on the farms in 1919.

Q-- Were you one of the men who came from Toronto?

A-- No.

MR. PURCELL: Mr. Stevenson has been a resident here for 30 years, he has had charge of some large fruit properties, at Lundy's Lane, in addition to operating his own property.

WITNESS: Previous to going with the Hydro, I had four years' experience managing property.

THE CHAIRMAN: Whereabouts did you have your farming experience? A-- Principally in the Niagara District.

Q-- General farming? A-- Principally fruit farming, and





a certain amount of general farming.

Q-- I know, in my part of the country, a fruit farmer does not know anything about dairy farming, or handling stock?.

MR. PURCELL: We didn't do any dairying.

WITNESS: Since 1919, we have gone out of the dairy business, and sheep raising, we unloaded all of that. We have depended principally for our revenue on the production of fruit, and the sales of grain, hay, etc. Since the discussion has come up, I might say that we will show a small profit on the right side of the ledger this past year.

MR. PURCELL: That is, as far as the field records show? A-- Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Without paying interest on capital?

MR. PURCELL: It would not include interest on capital.

THE CHAIRMAN: Assume that you got the farms without paying any rent, you might make something?

WITNESS: That is not taking into consideration betterments, which are worth considerable. Ninety per cent. of the fruit growers in the Niagara District didn't split even in 1921, we had a deficit of about \$400. We depend principally on fruit, for our revenue, we are not in the dairy business, or sheep raising.

Q-- What are you doing with the farms now?

A-- We are operating now in the neighborhood of 350 acres.

Q-- Is that mostly fruit? A-- I would say 125 to 150 acres.

Q-- Where do you get the horses and implements?

A-- We have them.

Q-- Are their feet all right? A-- Yes, there are no cankers on those horses' feet.

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MR. PURCELL: The horses that had bad feet were sold.

WITNESS: We are operating with six horses.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are doing very well with 350 acres.

Q-- You are not living on the place?

A-- No, I am living on property of my own, adjacent to one of the farms.

Q-- Is it the intention to rent all these farms?

A-- Yes, I understand there is a proposition to be submitted to the property committee in Toronto.

Q-- That will close their farming experience?

A-- Yes, as far as I know.

MR. PURCELL: I might say, that is one point I lost, in making my explanation. When the properties were acquired, there were about 49 sets of buildings, and of these 49 sets of buildings there were only 6 or 7 that were available to go with the property.

We tried to rent the property, from the end of October 1917 to about the end of January 1918, but there was nobody around here, living adjacent to these properties, who wanted more land, they didn't have help to work what they had. It was, therefore, necessary to let the land lie idle.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any prospect of selling this land, such as is not required for the canal?

MR. GABY:

There will be irregular pieces to be sold, all along the right-of-way. We had to buy the entire holdings of each of the parties, when the canal went through, although we tried not to buy any more on the east side of the canal than we could help. There are pieces on the west side of the canal which will be sold, either to the owners of adjacent lands, because they must have outbuildings, or to others. It will be difficult to dispose of those irregular shaped pieces of land to anyone who would require to go into





possession separately.

MR. HUGILL: When these lands were purchased, they were largely turned over for farming operations, with the exception of buildings, and small holdings, which were used by the construction people, who required a large number of houses for the foremen, and other employees, and they used a great many of the houses.

THE CHAIRMAN: I was surprised to hear Mr. Gaby say you were precluded from selling some of this land at an advance.

MR. GABY: I did not say 'advance', I say that the property would no doubt sell at a higher value than if we hadn't maintained the property; if we had allowed it to get into disrepair, we would have lost money on the properties, and I illustrated one place where we were renting for \$400 per annum, whereas we would have got nothing if we hadn't made improvements, and maintained the property.

THE CHAIRMAN: Could you not have rented the property before you started to maintain it?

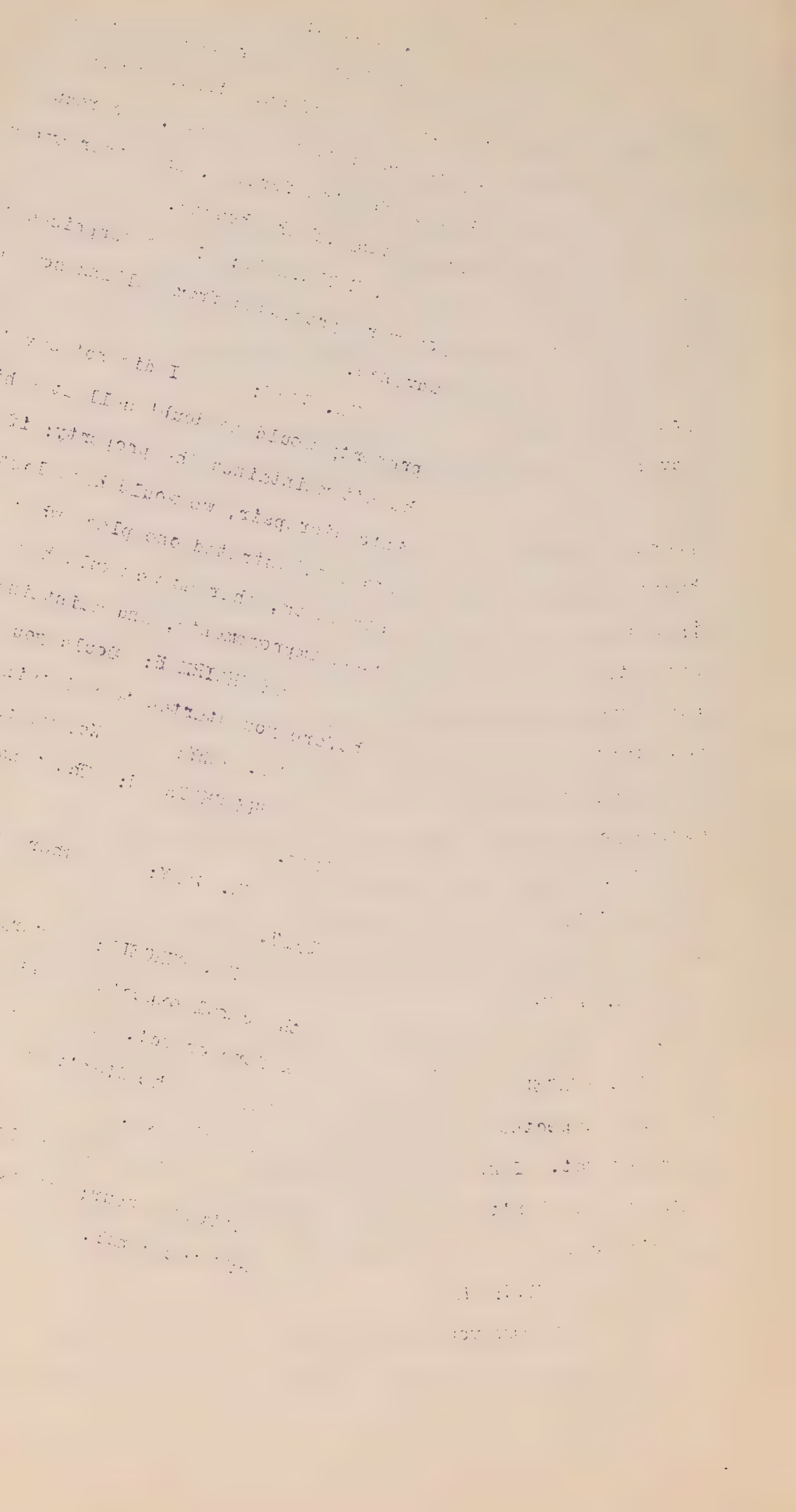
MR. GABY: No, we tried for several months.

THE CHAIRMAN: The tendency in real estate values is down.

MR. GABY: There were very few men available in 1917.

MR. PURCELL: Every man who lived within two miles of the canal expected a job on the canal, whether he had a farm or not. I know of a man named Williams, four miles away, and he didn't do a thing on his farm while this work was going on.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acres spoke of the difficulty of getting labour; now you say the difficulty was to keep labour off the canal.



MR. PURCELL: The difficulty was in keeping the men on the farm.

THE CHAIRMAN: The rush was to the canal? A-- Yes. The man I referred to said he could make more money hauling sand with his team, and he let his farm lie idle.

WITNESS: They made a perfect convenience of us. When men came from Toronto, they would spend perhaps two weeks on the farm, and then be induced to go on the canal, and they left us stranded.

MR. PURCELL: The peach trees had run out during the period we had control, and many were broken down, others had limbs off, owing to damage done by storms. Mr. Pope was discussing the renting of a piece of fruit land, and the man said he wouldn't give 5 cents a year for the land with those stumps on.

WITNESS: We blasted the stumps on a good many acres and made the land valuable for renting, and that is charged against the year's operations.

THE CHAIRMAN: I should think it would be sound policy to sell that land as soon as you can get rid of it. At what amount is it carried on the books at now?

MR. POPE: A considerable portion of that land came over with the Ontario Power Company.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Land Department is leasing all the farms now?

MR. PURCELL: The Power Company's right-of-way comes under the control of Mr. Phillips, the operating engineer of the Ontario Power Company, and Mr. Stevenson actually handles it in the field, conferring with Mr. Phillips as to any progress, and with regard to the canal right-of-way, Mr. Stevenson works in conjunction with Mr. Johnston of the canal office.

Q-- They are under two departments?





A-- In addition to the other areas, each of the Power Companies has its own property in connection with the high tension wires; so there is a lot of property to take care of-- I am not talking about city properties.

Q-- Under how many departments?      A-- About three.

MR. POPE:      It is under the Right-of-way Department, but Mr. Purcell has properly pointed out that Mr. Phillips is there on the ground, and knows what buildings he requires for their purposes, and assists in that, and Mr. Stevenson acts as the assistant. It is handled by the Right-of-way Department, in the end.

WITNESS:      The rentals collected by me are accounted for in the same way, and amounted to in the neighborhood of \$3500 last year, H.E.P.C. rentals, and O.P. rentals.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you had any losses at all owing to rentals not being paid?

WITNESS:      There is just one outstanding, there is half a year's payment due on the Glasgow farm.

MR. PURCELL:      We lost one month's rent.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am told that a man named Long made an offer for one of those farms, and was refused.

WITNESS:      That was one of our choice properties, and I considered it very undesirable to rent that farm, because I required it to help out the producing revenue.

Q-- Would you not have had a larger revenue if you had rented it?      You had an offer of \$600 for the year?

A-- No, we could show a profit from the asparagus.

Q-- It wouldn't be \$600?      A-- Yes, I could easily show a profit of \$600 on the asparagus alone, it would amount to more than \$600, plus peaches and cherries. I put in a strong recommendation that the property should not be rented, on those grounds.





Q-- Was there any complaint about not enough fertilizer being furnished?      A-- There was no complaint in my time.

Q-- Was there very much complaint, Mr. Purcell?

MR. PURCELL:      There were two requests for fertilizer, from those who were renting; but it was an unreasonable request, and we refused it.

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WALTER COATES:

THE CHAIRMAN:      What is your occupation?

A-- Farmer, sir.

Q-- Where are you living now?      A-- Stamford.

Q-- Are you living on one of the Hydro farms?

A-- No, my man lives in their house.

Q-- You have heard the discussion here about the farms, what do you know about the operation of them yourself?

A-- Very little, sir.

Q-- Have you had anything to do with any of them?

A-- I rent one, that is about all.

Q-- That is one of the farms that was worked for awhile by the Commission, and afterwards rented?      A-- Yes, sir.

Q-- What rent do you pay for that farm?      A-- \$400.

MR. PURCELL:  
That is, 18 acres of cleared land, and one house.

THE CHAIRMAN:      From your knowledge of conditions there do you think a course might have been followed by the Commission that would have resulted better financially, than the course that has been taken?      A-- I don't think so, sir, of course, the land wants a lot of manure, and that is an expensive thing to buy.

Q-- It would soon decrease in value if you failed to keep up the standard?      A-- Yes.

Q-- Do you think that more might have been done in keeping up a better standard, than has been done?



A-- I hardly think so.

Q-- It is easier to put money into a farm than it is to take it out, and you should be sure you can take your money out, before you put it in. A-- I don't think it could have been better managed.

Q-- Have you any criticism to make with regard to the farm lands? A-- Yes, I think, in renting farms, if the man spent \$500 on manure to put on that farm, he should be allowed for it in case he has to give up the farm on short notice.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are these lands rented from year to year?

MR. PURCELL: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I should think the effect would be that a man wouldn't want to spend much on fertilizer, if he is not to be allowed for it. You should get \$500 in the increased value of the property.

MR. PURCELL: I would like to say that we made an experiment, and hauled night soil from the camps and put it on the lands.

THE CHAIRMAN: If the land was in good condition, it wouldn't be necessary to give encouragement of that kind.

MR. PURCELL: We could not go on and maintain that work, because of the expense. Certain of the properties that received that treatment resulted in our getting a little better price for rentals.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you were selling the properties, it would pay you to keep them in good condition, and you cannot do that if you are going to rent from year to year. You cannot expect a man who rents the property to improve the land, if you do not allow him for it.

MR. PURCELL: I think, if a man made that proposition to us, we would meet him.

MR. STEVENSON: We would not get an enhanced value, to

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any extent.

THE CHAIRMAN: The land will very soon run down, if you don't put manure on.

MR. STEVENSON: I agree. It was our idea to mine those properties as much as possible and get the dollars.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you rent the property for five years, you cannot terminate the lease after three or four months, unless you allow for improvements that the tenant has made.

MR. POPE: The requirements of the contract, not only present, but future, are a matter that will have to be very carefully considered by the Commission before we can consider disposing of that block along the canal. If we require land in a year or two, and have to purchase it over again, we shall have to pay a great deal more than what we would get for it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would not leave it to the Commission, because the Commission does not know about actual farming conditions, I would leave it to a good practical farmer, such as Mr. Stevenson, he would know how to treat it.

MR. POPE: We are taking his recommendations.

MR. GABY: Mr. Purcell isn't on the job; Mr. Stevenson is the man in charge of the work, on the job, and is a practical farmer, and practical farmers are hired from time to time.

In reference to improvements, in the case of the tenant putting fertilizer on the land, and we have to take the land over; you will appreciate that if the land is to be used for the purpose of renting again, then the improvements would be useful, but if the land is to be used for canal purposes, the improvements would be of little value to the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is my thought that you <sup>can</sup> sell to better advantage if the land is in good condition.



MR. GABY: The position the Commission has taken in connection with these properties has been to maintain them in salable condition, that is the reason we have farmed them from the beginning, in order to maintain them in that position.

COMMISSIONER HANEY: In the case of the new canal you may build, have you considered whether you would put a tunnel, or an open cut?

MR. GABY: That is a matter for consideration. If we use a tunnel, the improvements would still be of value to the land in connection with renting the property.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything more? Is there anybody here who would like to say anything to us on any subject referred to? We have given a general invitation through the newspapers. If there is anyone who wishes to be heard, we will be glad to hear them.

Mr. Stevenson: These properties are thoroughly well kept up, and are in a condition where they can be either sold or rented, and the pruning, and cultivation, has been kept up very well for the last two years.

I consider they are much more valuable than they were before.

THE CHAIRMAN: If the land is not manured, it must depreciate in quality.

MR. STEVENSON: The party renting has had to take into consideration the condition of the land, and takes it with that understanding, according to the conditions of the lease.

THE CHAIRMAN: Using your own judgment, would you change the terms of these leases?

A-- You would get a far better class of tenants. I had a man who wanted five acres, I asked him what he intended to do and he said he would grow small fruits; I told him he would have to expend \$400 or \$500, and he could only get a year's





lease, and that would not compensate him for his expense.

THE CHAIRMAN: You not only did not give encouragement, but you got a poor class of tenants. I have great respect for your judgment, Mr. Stevenson, when you can show an operating profit on farm lands, I would like to find out how you do it.

Is there anyone here now who wishes to be heard?

(No response).

I do not think there is anything further; we will adjourn sine die.

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(The proceedings adjourned at 5:30 P.M., Thursday, February 8th, 1923, sine die).

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